

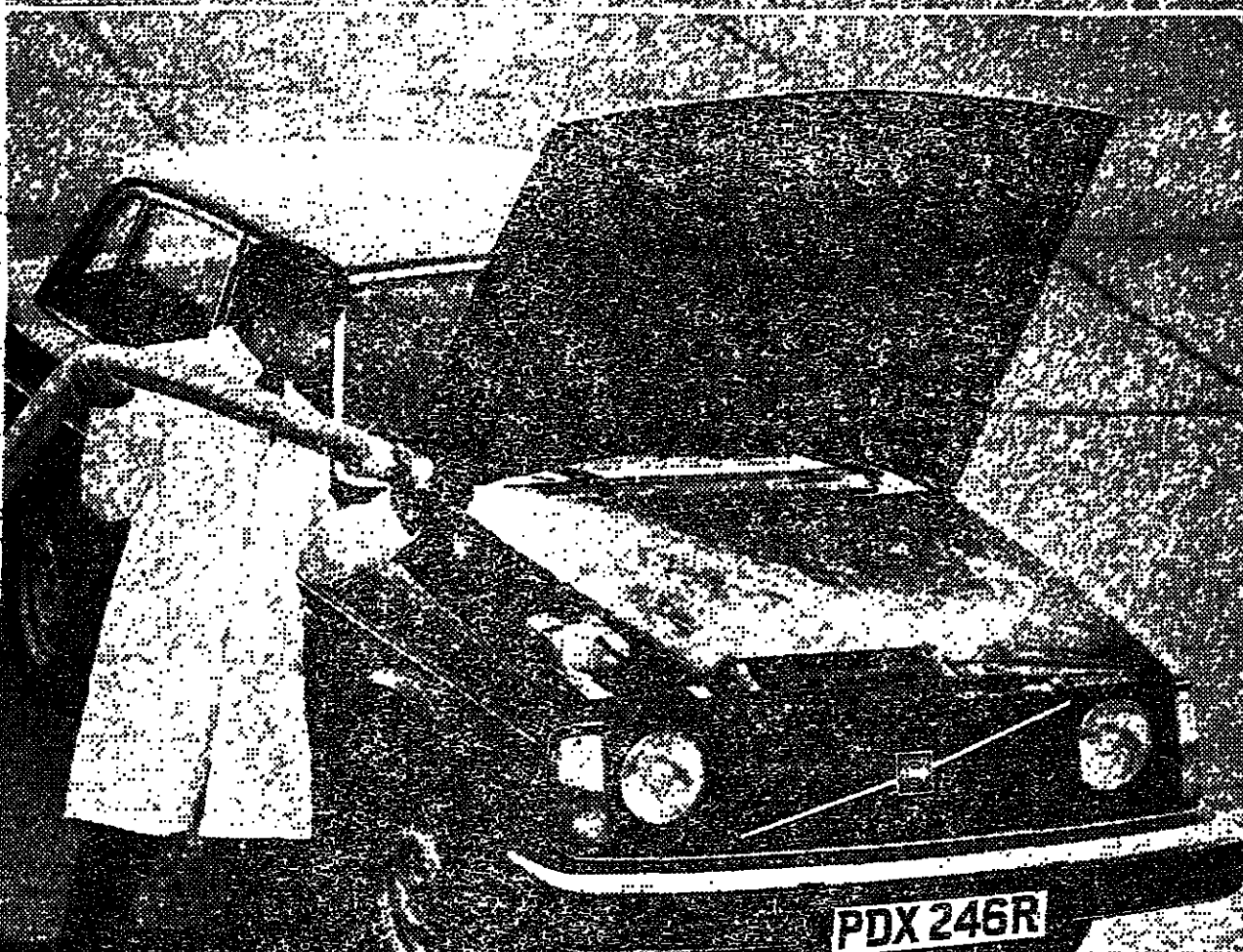
Address _____
(Prices include VAT. Insured p&p within the UK 75p extra.)



8:00am.



8:01am.



8:10am.



8:11am.

A LITTLE MOISTURE IN THE ATMOSPHERE WON'T STOP A VOLVO.

What you see happening in the photographs actually happened.

The Volvo started first time, leaving behind a relieved photographer and a smiling spokesman from Volvo.

Not that anyone should really have been surprised.

The vulnerable parts of the Volvo engine, the plugs and distributor, are well-protected from the elements.

Come rain, hail, sleet or snow, a Volvo is expected to start.

In Sweden, temperatures can be sub-zero for 6 months in the year, and being stranded on a country road within the Arctic circle isn't quite the same thing as waiting for the AA outside Cheltenham.

The Volvo 244 is reliable because it has to be. And because it's built to be.

It takes a Volvo nine hours to crawl through the

final assembly plant.

And in a factory where engineers outnumber stylists by 40 to 1, each car is minutely examined.

But if you're looking for statistics to back up our reliability claim, one seems more convincing than any other.

92% of Volvo owners intend to remain Volvo owners when they next change their car.

And as evidence goes, we'd say that was pretty reliable. **VOLVO**

HOME NEWS

Car-loan plan for the disabled being discussed by ministers

By Robert Parker

Disabled people who drive invalid tricycles will be able to buy, convert and run small standard four-wheel production cars if a scheme being worked out by the Central Council for the Disabled and other bodies is successful.

The scheme, which has ministerial support in the Department of Health and Social Security, should please many of Britain's 21,000 tricycle drivers.

They were angered by the Government's announcement last July to phase out the tricycle (there have been many arguments about its safety) by 1981 and replace it with a weekly movable mobility allowance of £5. They say that the allowance, which started 12 months ago, is no substitute for the tricycle, which, apart from petrol, is free.

The proposed scheme involves increasing the mobility allowance to about £7 a week and combining it with other concessions and tax exemptions. An essential part of the plan is the commitment of the mobility allowance so that it can be used to buy a car.

The plan means that mobility assistance would be available not just to disabled people who drive tricycles but to as many as possible of the country's 1,250,000 severely disabled. Such people would be able to use the allowance and associated concessions to buy whatever form of mobility or transport they considered appropriate to their circumstances.

The Department of Health and Social Security is expected to announce an increase in the mobility allowance of about two fifths next month.

Meanwhile Mr Morris, Under-Secretary of State (Disabled) at the department, is involved in talks about the concessions and communication scheme with Mr George Wil-

son, director of the Central Council for the Disabled. Treasury officials are examining some of the difficulties relating to the proposals, such as what to do if someone dies after he has been advanced money for a car but before he has repaid it.

The central council's scheme depends on setting up a fund to help disabled people to pay off the interest on a capital loan to buy a car. The repayment period would be about 7 years, the Government's estimate of the life of a tricycle. Discussions are also going on with one car manufacturer on the possibility of concessions of about 15 per cent on purchase prices. The mobility allowance is to be enough to buy and run a car purchasers would also have to be exempt from the excise licence fee and value-added tax.

If the scheme is successful it will provide a route for those who can drive a modified production car. Of the present 21,000 tricycle drivers, it is thought that about six thousand would still need specially produced vehicles. The department says it is looking for a new specialized vehicle to replace the tricycles, which are produced by AC Cars and Javacar. AC and others dispute the accident figures quoted against the tricycle and do not accept that it cannot be modified to meet new safety regulations.

Disabled people who cannot, or do not want to drive a specialized vehicle or production car will still get the full mobility allowance. Mr Morris says the allowance makes for a much fairer distribution of assistance to the disabled. Under the old system the criterion for eligibility was ability to drive. Now it is simply disability.

In a recent interview with *The Times* Mr Morris said: "I accept that there are difficulties about this proposal. But I believe that the mobility allowance is being improved. But I hope that the allowance will become more attractive and meet the needs of more and more disabled people."

Battle joined for voters of tourists' metropolis

By Penny Symon

As he bounded up yet another flight of stone stairs in a bleak block of council flats, Mr Peter Brooke, the Conservative candidate in the forthcoming by-election in the cities of London and Westminster, South said with feeling: "I love campaigning. I could do it all the time. It is the only chance the voters have of seeing you—democracy in action."

His enthusiasm for that side of electioneering, and for the campaign in general, comes over strongly. It is a quality necessary for his by-election because the Conservatives, who had a 57.61 majority at the last election, on a 53 per cent turnout, against the national average of almost 73 per cent, are determined to increase it tomorrow week and therefore their candidate must be kept busy.

He shakes the hand of every passer-by with gusto, and when, as is often the case, they say they do not live in the constituency, but are either working or shopping in it, Mr Brooke replies that it is never a waste to shake anyone's hand. The constituency contains almost all of London's tourist attractions except the Tower, and the difficulty for all the candidates, after they have located the voters among the horde of visitors, is to make them realize that the by-election, caused by the appointment of Mr Christopher Tugendhat as an EEC commissioner, is happening at all.

There is a subtle, witty declaration about not trusting any political party, but not to the usual extent. Increasingly voters are saying that they are determined to vote one way or another, and one hour's loss of the cry: "What is the point in voting at all?"

The Conservatives, who are naturally asserting that the Labour vote is coming over the top, have an affable campaigner in Mr Brooke. He is 42 and chairman of a management consultancy firm.

His father, Lord Brooke of Cumnor, had his share of unpopularity when he was Home Secretary from 1962 to 1964,



Mr Peter Brooke, the Conservative by-election candidate (on the top balcony), finding out the hard way yesterday what it means to campaign among blocks of flats.

and his son says he was aware of politics when he was a schoolboy helping to address envelopes during his parents' campaigns in local government elections in London in 1948 and 1949.

"I learnt then how every vote counted, and it made a deep impact on me," he says. "But these pressures are very possible vote, and it accepts that now is a bad time for it to be fighting a by-election. The writs have not yet been moved for by-elections pending in the Labour-held constituencies of

Birmingham, Stechford, and Ashfield, caused by other EEC appointments, and the Conservatives' speed in moving their writ for Mr Tugendhat's former constituency has not left Labour in a good mood.

Mr Malcolm Noble, the party's candidate, is 30 and the head of business studies at a comprehensive school in south London. He is also chairman of Lambeth Housing Committee, and is angry at the contrasts he sees in the constituency between the splendour of Belgrave and the overcrowding, lack of amenities,

excessive rents, bad landlords, and homelessness in other areas. Angus Scrimgeour, a banker aged 32, and the Liberal candidate, smiles sardonically when it is suggested that the campaign is quiet, because his workers have spent a long time preparing detailed surveys of every street in the constituency, in the hope that perhaps the heady days of by-elections producing shock results, as at Orpington, might reappear.

The by-election has attracted a crop of fringe candidates bearing bizarre labels. The full list of candidates is as follows:

Candidates: P. Brooke (C), M. Noble (Lab), A. Scrimgeour (L), W. Boakes (Lib), D. Berrill (Lib), R. Herbert (Cons), Crown, Country, Commonwealth, Christian Const., M. Lobb (Nat Party), P. Mitchell (Campaign for Homosexual Civil Rights), W. Thompson (Christian Outreach to Britain), Anti-Fornography, P. Cavanagh (Nat Front), General election, Tugendhat (C), 14,350; P. Turner (Lab), 8,589; T. Underwood (L), 4,122; D. Baxter (Nat Front), 686; C. Polling day: February 24.

First court order in fair trading

By a Staff Reporter

A man who installed gas-fired central heating that leaked gas has become the first person to have a court order brought against him by the Director General of Fair Trading on the ground of persistent breaking criminal or civil law.

Mr Gordon Borrie, the director general, sought the order against Mr Jerzy Krupa, of Moorland Road, Cardiff, after Mr Krupa had given a written undertaking in April, 1975, that he would not again install central heating that did not comply with the terms of contracts with customers and which contravened the Gas Safety Regulations, 1972.

Cardiff County Court issued an order against Mr Krupa, restraining him from installing equipment in an improper or unworkmanlike manner and from contravening the gas regulations.

Mr Krupa, who was not in court, was ordered to pay costs.

BBC signs TV exchange deal with Bulgaria

Exchanges of radio and television programmes between Britain and Bulgaria were made possible yesterday by the signing of an agreement between the BBC and the Bulgarian Committee for Television and Radio.

It was signed in London by Mr Ivan Slavkov, director-general of Bulgarian Television, and Mr Ian Trethowan, managing director of BBC Television. Technical facilities for visiting television and radio crews will be made available and the exchange of radio or television specialists will also be possible.

The BBC said of the two-year agreement: "We hope it will lead to greater freedom of action for our reporters and camera crews visiting Bulgaria."

Banned driver was drugged

Ronald Ingham, aged 27, of Broadwell Avenue, Lagan, Essex, was jailed for a year yesterday after admitting having drugs, driving while disqualified and driving under the influence of drugs. He was banned from driving for five years, but cleared of conspiring to supply cannabis.

Mr Richard Hawkins, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court that Mr Ingham had earlier been disqualified from driving. Police officers saw him driving and after being arrested he was found to be drugged.

Examination plan opposed

The National Union of Teachers will fight any government attempt to reintroduce the school certificate examination, Mr Alfred Wiltshire, its president, said last night.

He told teachers at Bude, Cornwall, that he was disturbed by a proposal in a Department of Education and Science background paper for an examination requiring children to achieve a minimum standard in several subjects.

Electricity night tariffs may fall

By Roger Vislivo

A reduction of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent in off-peak night tariffs for electricity has been proposed by the area supply boards in England and Wales in new submissions to the Price Commission.

Efforts to make electric heating more attractive have come at a time when the British Gas Corporation is planning a rise of a tenth in its prices from April 1, and after a long controversy over the rapid rise in off-peak rates since 1972.

While the off-peak night rates are likely to fall, the area boards have applied for increases in general daytime tariffs averaging 4 per cent to 5 per cent. There will, however, be a large increase in the rates, which may be 2.5 per cent above and below the average figures.

About half a million consumers use the night-rate tariffs and 1,250,000 are on electricity. The bulk supply tariff will rise by about 11 per cent during 1977-78. The increase has been approved by the Price Commission and by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

Of the 11 per cent about 8 per cent is accounted for by expected increases in the cost of coal during the coming financial year. The other 3 per cent covers the CEBG's increased operating costs not related to its fuel bill.

The 8 per cent increase in the CEBG's fuel bill arises from the likelihood of a 15 per cent rise in the pitched price of coal later in the spring.

Any further increase by the National Coal Board to accommodate the cost of early retirement for miners would produce an additional rise in electricity prices.

Mr John Flinnigan, the region's service manager, said that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

Birth rate at record low level

By a Staff Reporter

The birth rate for England and Wales fell last year for the twelfth consecutive year to a record low level. Figures released yesterday by the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys show that the birth rate was 11.9 a thousand of the population.

The lowest previous figure recorded, excluding the war years and the present decline, was 14.4 in 1920. The OPCS said that "relating the number of births to the number of women of child-bearing age in the population, the estimated general fertility rate for 1976, at about 60 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, was about the same level as the 1930s".

Births fell by 3 per cent from 603,000 in 1975 to an estimated 585,000 in 1976. This is the smallest decline for five years.

The decline, taken in conjunction with an increase in annual deaths from 585,000 to 598,000, led to an overall population decrease of 13,000.

London attracts 7,500,000 foreign visitors

By Patricia Tisdall

London continues to be the most popular centre for overseas visitors to Britain. An estimate by the British Tourist Authority published yesterday shows that 7,500,000 foreign visitors or three quarters of the total who came to Britain in 1976 spent one night or more in the capital, an increase of more than 13 per cent on 1975.

The proportion of overseas visitors who combined a visit to London with a stay of one night or longer elsewhere also increased.

Shopping accounted for as much as 48 per cent of overseas visitors' spending. The most popular purchases were clothing and textiles, china, glass and silverware, cutlery and leather goods. But 73 per cent of summer visitors and 57 per cent of autumn visitors said the main purpose of their visit was for a holiday and sightseeing and only 1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively said they had come specifically for shopping.

The survey shows an increasing tendency for visitors to return to London. About half of all summer visitors to London in 1976 had never visited the city before, a drop from more than 60 per cent in 1975.

Four-fifths of visitors to London made their own travel and accommodation arrangements. A fifth of the summer visitors and slightly fewer of those in the autumn came on package tours.

Older people, those on a first visit to London and visitors from North America or certain European countries, such as Italy and Spain, are more likely to use package tours.

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Estate agent is jailed for £110,000 thefts

A driver threatened to reverse his lorry through an estate agent's window before he was arrested for £110,000 in thefts.

A driver threatened to reverse his lorry through an estate agent's window before he was arrested for £110,000 in thefts. The cheque was rejected later by the bank.

Paul Edward Reynolds, aged 40, of Stanway, Ewell, Surrey, was sentenced to 17 months in prison for 17 charges of theft, totalling £110,000, and asked for 224 similar offences to be considered.

Judge Buzard jailed him for three years, and said: "I accept that most of the money you stole went to prop up a business that was failing. But this was a particularly mean fraud because it meant that a very large number of people lost the savings they hoped would provide a deposit for a home of their own in these days of housing shortage."

John Noel Barton, aged 62, of Mount Road, Stratham, London, Mr Reynolds' office manager, admitted eight offences of fraud on depositors and was given a nine-month sentence, suspended for two years.

Kevin John McCarthy, aged 26, of Pollards Hill East, Norbury, London, was acquitted of fraud.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Minimum award for crime victims raised

By Our Crime Correspondent

The minimum compensation paid to victims of violent crime has been raised from £50 to £150 to restore the original value of the award without changing the scope or purpose of the scheme, Mr Rees, home secretary, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Inflation, he said, had made the £50 limit which was established in 1964, too low to exclude trivial cases.

A new "rule of thumb" scale has been drawn up by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

An undisplaced nasal fracture or, as one official described it, a rugby-type bloody nose, will now be assessed at £200; a fractured nose needing a straightening operation at £300; a fractured jaw requiring wiring at £450; a stab wound in the chest requiring surgery and leaving a scar at £650; rape, with no physical or psychological reactions at £1,000; and loss of sight of an eye at £5,000.

Injuries that before the new ruling would have been considered minor and will now be considered serious are: wrenched wrist and arm and slight grazing which would have qualified for £50 compensation; bruising to both arms and neck, £75; human bites on leaving slight scar, £100; and facial bruising, with sub-conjunctival haemorrhage to eye with two weeks' absence from duty, £125.

The last four examples are taken from actual cases decided under the 1964 scale.

In the year ended March 31 last, the board received 16,650 applications for compensation and paid more than £5.4m to 11,500 people. By the end of next month the board expects to have received about 20,000 applications.

Compensation is assessed on the basis of common law damages which normally include compensation for pain and suffering and loss of earnings.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft until the association had seen them.

Pledge to report any Tory club racialism

By Michael Horsnell

Any evidence of racial discrimination in Conservative social clubs will be reported to the new Commission for Racial Equality by the Association of Conservative Clubs, which represents 1,200 of them, Sir Donald Kaberry, the association's chairman, announced yesterday.

Sir Donald, MP for Leeds, North-west, made the announcement after *The Times* had reported yesterday that evidence of discrimination in several clubs in London and the Midlands, collated by staff at Conservative Central Office,

is to be forwarded to Lord Thorpecroft, the Tory chairman. Sir Donald added that he has not yet received any evidence.

He said: "We asked the Young Conservatives last October to give us evidence of their allegations of racial discrimination 'in a significant number of Conservative clubs'. I have never received it and I am still waiting to get the evidence."

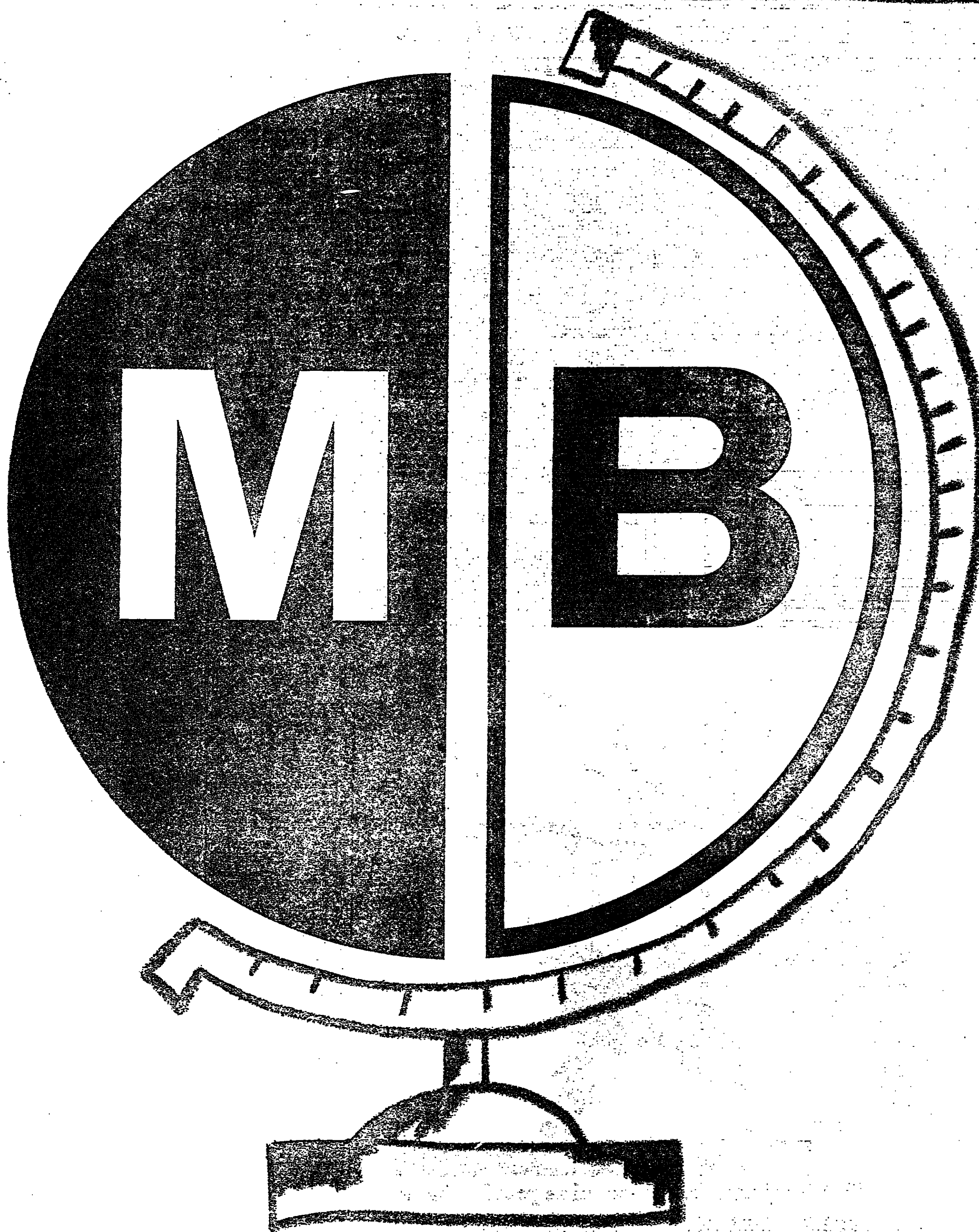
"In any case, where it can properly be proved that any kind of racial discrimination has taken place with regard to membership of any club,

appropriate action will be taken to report such a club, whether it be a members' club, a social association or any club, Labour, Liberal or non-political."

"It is a civil, or probably now a criminal, offence under the Race Relations Acts, and the appropriate action will be taken to report such a club, whether it be a members' club, a social association or any club, Labour, Liberal or non-political."

"It is a civil, or probably now a criminal, offence under the Race Relations Acts, and the appropriate action will be taken to report such a club, whether it be a members' club, a social association or any club, Labour, Liberal or non-political."

"It is a civil, or probably now a criminal, offence under the Race Relations Acts, and the appropriate action will be taken to report such a club, whether it be a members' club, a social association or any club, Labour, Liberal or non-political."



Thinking internationally: it's Metal Box's business.

Expertise in packaging, food preservation and marketing is in increasing demand all over the world.

So it's not surprising that more than one-third of our £520 million annual turnover arises outside the U.K. We have manufacturing plants in 15 countries, locally managed and largely autonomous but backed by the services and resources of Metal Box in Britain. And we supply everything from basic containers to complete packaging lines and technical consultancy services to countries all over the world.

We need the markets of the world. They need the skills, experience and products we supply.



Metal Box Limited
A good business to be in

HOME NEWS

BBC figures show how increasing cost consciousness has kept tight rein on programme makers

By Kenneth Gosling

It costs twice as much to present a 50-minute drama production on film as it does in the studio; two thirds of all programmes networked by the BBC cost less than £10,000, and the overall cost an hour of television since BBC2 was introduced in 1964 has dropped from £4,487 to £4,232.

Those are some of the conclusions that emerge from an examination of the facts and figures connected with the operation of BBC television during the year 1975-76. They demonstrate that, far from being the extravagant organisation that some people maintain, the BBC is becoming increasingly cost-conscious.

A detailed analysis of all the finance, staff and resources involved in presenting a two-channel television service appears in BBC figures which I am able to reveal exclusively today. They are normally available only to top executives and heads of departments and will shortly be published to the unions with members engaged in broadcasting.

They show, for example, that since the introduction of BBC2 in 1964 the staff required to operate BBC television has risen from 12,400 to 15,900, the latter figure representing a slight drop over 1974-75. The hours of output over the same

period went up from 7,500 to 10,300.

An analysis of network programmes shows that drama accounted for the largest number of programmes with expenditure of more than £40,000, 134 in total. Only five children's programmes cost more than £30,000, and most (584) were made for under £5,000. In light entertainment, most programmes (276) cost between £10,000 and £20,000. The high-priced "block-busters" were regarded as economical not only because of their repeat prospects but for their selling potential abroad.

Co-production with other organisations still accounts for only 14 per cent of operating expenditure, although expenditure itself has risen from £131.8m in 1975-76. Co-production policy is that the level of contributions shall not exceed 25 per cent of the total operating expenditure.

In the field of individual programme costs, those totalling a budget of £40,000 or more included in current affairs the EEC referendum results, the Apollo-Soyuz space flight, the three party conference, and the TUC conference.

In the same group, under outside broadcasts, came the FA Cup Final, the All-Bugger fight, Wimbledon tennis, the

British Open golf, the Horse of the Year Show and, an equally sporting engagement, Miss World; in light entertainment, the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show cost the same, as did each episode of the drama series *The Chattering Princes*, *The Duchess of Duke Street* and *Moll Flanders*.

In the features, music and documentaries range, there was similar expenditure on *The Flying Dutchman*, the Beyerleth centenary, *The Explorers* and *The Inventing of America*.

Films shown on television, which account for 16 per cent of output, represent the lowest cost, an hour, with drama accounting for less than a tenth of output, costing most. Outside broadcasts, costing less than £10,000 an hour, provide a quarter of output.

The total programme staff in London, including 841 posts at producer and director level, was 1,619; in the regions 1,265. The number of programmes produced from London was 4,574, current affairs topping the list with 895, closely followed by children's programmes at 808.

The national regions and regional network production centres provided 755 programmes for the network. The budgets for all those programmes in 1975-76 was under £10,000, with 2 per cent.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Permanent staff	March 31	1976	Expenditure
1975	%	1976	%
Programme costs	7,824	50	67.2
Gen & admin	637	4	6.7
News	8,461	54	92.9
Local prog	512	4	3.8
English prog	670	4	3.1
Scotland	543	4	3.8
Wales	282	2	1.8
N Ireland	2,108	14	12.5
Open Univ	352	2	3.2
Total prog costs	10,221	70	108.6
Transmission & dist	338	2	6.2

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES ANALYSED BY TOTAL COST BUDGET											
Under £5,000	£5,001 to £10,000	£10,001 to £20,000	£20,001 to £30,000	£30,001 to £40,000	£40,001 to £50,000	£50,001 to £60,000	£60,001 to £70,000	£70,001 to £80,000	£80,001 to £90,000	£90,001 to £100,000	Over £100,000
24	46	275	109	18	2	5	480				
Light entertainment											
Drama	5	10	42	105	10	7	64	368			
Current	264	510	49	45	5	5	235				
Outside broadcasts	62	135	96	96	73	5	16	485			
Features/music/documentary	137	129	147	118	13	19	18	582			
Children's programmes	386	38	7	7	5	1	308				
Religion	54	115	—	—	—	—	—	170			
Schools, further ed	71	342	58	—	—	—	—	471			
Others	223	33	11	—	—	—	—	291			
Total	1,454	1,465	758	480	210	38	108	4,574			
Net reg and regnl											
network production centres	440	122	168	8	7	4	5	755			
Total	1,894	1,588	926	488	217	42	113	5,329			
Percentage	66	17	9	4	2	2	100				

Britain loses torture case argument

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

The Irish Government has won a victory over Britain after the first round of hearings by the European Court of Human Rights into allegations that suspected IRA men were tortured by troops and police in 1971.

An interim ruling on behalf of the 18 international judges in Strasbourg yesterday rejected the British argument that the court should refrain from passing judgment on the untested parts of the Irish case. It also stated that the court had jurisdiction over more than 200 cases of alleged brutality which Britain had hoped would not go to further proceedings.

The ruling, after two days of private discussions between the judges, disappointed the leading British lawyers and officials involved. It leaves the way open for Ireland to press its strenuous attempts to persuade the court to order the prosecution of members of the security forces.

The three key sections which the British did not contest concerned breaches of article three of the Convention on Human Rights relating to torture and inhuman treatment. They covered the use of five sensory deprivation methods as well as a general practice of ill-treatment carried out in Holywood barracks, Belfast, in 1971.

Britain had been found guilty by the European Commission of Human Rights on those points. But the delegation, led by Mr. Silkin, the Attorney General, had hoped that by not contesting them and by promising to outlaw the techniques they could persuade the court to shelve that part of the case.

After the European court's ruling the next session of the torture hearing begins on April 19.

Judges appointed: An early move to establish a second anti-terrorism court in Dublin is expected from the Irish Government (the *Irish Association Reports*). Mr. Justice James McMahon and Mr. Justice Thomas Doyle were yesterday appointed to the Special Criminal Court, bringing the panel to nine, a figure that would make possible a rota system and enable two courts to sit simultaneously.

Duke's visit: Amid strict security the Duke of Gloucester started a two-day visit to Northern Ireland yesterday. He had several private meetings.

He is in Ulster in his capacity as Grand Prior of the Order of St. John and will invest the Duke of Westminster as Knight Commander of the Order of the Ards at a ceremony at Hillsborough Castle, Co. Down, today.

It is the first official visit by a member of the Royal Family to Northern Ireland since the present troubles began in 1969.

Information sought: The United States Government on Monday sought to force the American-based Irish Northern Aid Committee to be more explicit about its objectives; where it gets its money, and how it spends it (Reuters reports from Washington).

Brutality allegations embarrass Dublin Government

Woman says police beat her as bottle had been thrown at their

From Christopher Walker Belfast

The *Irish Times* is noted for thoroughness and belief in accuracy. For that reason the detailed claims about police brutality that it has been publishing this week are credible and attracted immediate international attention.

The embarrassment caused to the Dublin Government and demands for an independent inquiry have centred largely on the detailed case histories printed in the paper. Some of these are similar to accusations made by the same paper against British policemen late in 1971 and later taken further by the British press.

In most cases *The Irish Times* has not printed the names of the alleged victims because court proceedings are being considered. But a team of the paper's senior reporters, including a former Northern Ireland editor, has checked them over six weeks.

One woman living in Dublin said she was beaten by members of the Garda Síochána last year, when she was four months pregnant. Soon after a young man had been arrested at her flat and a milk bottle had been thrown at the police car there was a knock.

"On opening the door no words were spoken. One garda wearing a brown jacket grabbed me by the hair, swung me round the hall and punched me several times in the stomach," she said.

"Two other gardaí grabbed both my arms, pinning them to my sides and one of my body. They then bent me forward and several times punched me round the back of the head. One garda shouted into my face that I had thrown a milk bottle out of the window. He spat in my face."

Several of the case histories describe the use of some of the five sensory deprivation techniques that the European Commission of Human Rights has denounced as torture.

The paper maintains that they have been used with greater regularity since last October, when emergency legislation increased the period for detaining suspects from two days to seven days.

The most disturbing account concerns four Tipperary men held in a Garda station in Cahir earlier this month. They said their ill treatment began when detectives from Dublin, members of the so-called "heavy gang", arrived to take over their interrogation.

According to *The Irish Times* the men said they were punched, kicked and pulled by the hair. They were deprived of sleep and lost track of time by being kept in rooms with the blinds drawn and electric lights on day and night. One said that the gardaí told him: "We will break you mentally and physically on the seventh hour of the seventh day; that's when they all break."

One of the men, M. Connors, attempted jumping through a rather than sign a statement. "This dramatic highlight what was in the Garda station essentially incidental criticism of the way had treated him," corroborated by the of the other three paper said.

A Dublin man in 1975 in connection armed robbery detention at a Garda station in the centre of the about 3.30 in the morning the worst beating of been left in the room guard and suddenly was flung open and rushed in," he said.

"They surrounded me, they began kicking me, main head. This did not long, probably not about four minutes very severe. WI stopped there was over the place and it wipe it off the floor with a cloth. They said: 'Wipe it up'."

The suspect was after the 48-hour detention period. He was 4 days in hospital and court action against. His case is one of 25 about allegations of all held up by the Irish judicial system.

Driver cleared because test was random

Harold Gregson, aged 42, a driving instructor, had 166 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, just over twice the legal limit, when he was stopped by a police car. But a jury at Bristol Crown Court yesterday decided he was stopped in a random check, and acquitted him.

Judge Vowden, QC, said: "We hear that about a police state. We seem to be getting rather near it in the Westonsuper-Mare area."

Mr. Gregson, of Glen Mansions, Langport Road, Weston, was stopped by Police Constable Michael Leppard, who agreed that he was more concerned

Court will rule on student's benefit

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

Reserved judgment will be given today in the Court of Appeal on a case potentially affecting the right of students to claim supplementary benefit during the Christmas and Easter vacations.

But the Government has succeeded in passing a clause that would give legal backing to the practice being challenged in the court case.

Mr. Robin Atkinson, aged 21, a former law student at Newcastle Polytechnic, appealed against the decision to award him less than the full amount of supplementary benefit because it was assumed that he received a vacation element in his grant. He argued that his benefit should not have been reduced, because his parents did not pay their share.

Even if judgment is given in his favour Mr. Atkinson's case is unlikely to affect any other students. The Government succeeded in restoring its clause on students' benefits to the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill on Monday night, and the Bill is expected to become law before the Easter vacation. Students who were refused benefit, or

awarded reduced benefit during the Christmas and Easter vacations, are exceptional circumstances. The clause on supplementary benefit mandating discretionary practice Supplementary Benefit: mission in dealing with claims. Although the firm figures on his students will be 170,000 were awarded during the 1975 vacation.

Claims from single holders students have fared since last because their grants have a vacation element of £11.35, the same notional supplementary entitlement. That which will become the Bill is opposed National Union of Students cause more than 10 do not pay contribution, according survey by the Dept Education and Science.

The commission's parents who do not contribute in cash kind. It is once parents might stop altogether if the air automatically made benefits.

Ploughing 'threatens m archaeological sites'

By a Special Correspondent

In one English county alone nearly two fifths of a large sample of archaeological sites are being destroyed by ploughing. The scale of the threat to the buried past in Sussex was disclosed at a conference in Salisbury on Tuesday attended by more than 70 archaeologists and farmers.

After a recent survey carried out by Sussex Archaeological Field Unit Mr Peter Drewett concluded that of 660 sites visited "38 per cent were being actively destroyed by ploughing".

Although about a fifth of the sites covered by protective legislation were being ploughed, Mr Drewett said that more than "250 known sites were suffering plough damage, and these represented only a fraction of sites yet to be discovered."

Commenting on a more detailed survey of specific earthworks, Mr Drewett said: "The ploughing of earthworks results in their consistent, and then final, total obliteration. It is little doubt that earthworks must be given priority in terms of preservation and rescue excavation."

A group of Wesssex gists said too little was being paid to the ploughing on sites. "Cases even the monument are being scheduled Ancient Monuments centre being denied by physical activity and only physically impressive monuments are being preserved."

They suggested that the confining large are ductive land to grass, the methods of should be encouraged.

The conference was the Department of the meant was considering to schedule all unploughed sites. A prepared by the Dept, could result in infection other types of land, heath and woodland, in need protection.

Recruiting 'up to target'

Although the number of recruits to the Armed Forces between October and December last year was more than a thousand below the same period in 1975, the Ministry of Defence says recruiting is in line with the targets.

Only the Royal Air Force took

on more between Oct and Dec 1976, than in 1975, 1,378 in 1976 quarter. (1,378 in 1975 quarter).

The Royal Navy took 2,028 in 1975; the Marines 161 (279 in 1975); the Army 3,752 (5,082

Doctor voices concern over discovery of 'new' sexually-transmitted disease

Doctors at the Middlesex Hospital, London, have discovered a form of sexually-transmitted disease that is becoming common among homosexuals and has been found in heterosexuals.

The disease is hepatitis B, a virus infection that can lead to jaundice and in some cases chronic liver failure.

Doctors have found that some men who become chronic carriers of the infection, harbouring it for years, can pass it by sexual intercourse.

The chronic carriers suffer no symptoms, but they can remain infectious for years. Dr Duncan Cameron, director of the department of genito urinary medicine at the hospital, said yesterday: "You could say this is the most serious sexually-transmitted disease," he said after describing his research to a conference at the Royal College of Physicians.

"Sexual transmission is now probably the most important source of the disease," he said.

A survey in venereal disease clinics showed that people attending had a tenfold greater incidence of the virus in their blood than the general population. Dr Cameron said he suspected homosexuals were at greater risk because they tended to have more casual sexual relations, thus increasing the chances of infection.

Syphilis and gonorrhoea could be cured but hepatitis B carriers could not be rid of virus until it went of its own accord, he said. The only course for chronic carriers was abstinence, but could result in infection for five years or sibly longer."

At a central London disease clinic where 2,000 patients are treated, Dr Cameron said he had seen a quarter would be infected by the virus. Fewer than half of infected would develop jaundice but liver failure result in a small number of cases.

Two of about thirty known to the Middlesex Hospital have infected three each, but there is no evidence of a wider spread. Dr Cameron said: "It is a possibility that become more common heterosexual men."



International WestLB is just as international as your business

As you've probably noticed, most banks claim to be international. But one of the important questions you should ask yourself before choosing your international banking partner is: "How international does my bank have to be?"

It's not just a matter of a few more branches or representative offices here and there, or of an extra few hundred correspondents. It's international experience in the right fields at the right places that counts. WestLB has a great deal of it.

After all, it's the Banker of many of Germany's world-renowned Ruhr industries. In this bustling region, WestLB has grown into one of Europe's largest banks and it ranks among the top twenty in the world. Its experience in export and import financing is the solid cornerstone of its world-wide capacity.

In addition to this traditional international trade financing, WestLB's extensive sources of funds have made it a major force in the international issue business, Eurocurrency credits and project financing. A balance sheet total of close on DM 64,000 million reflects the financial capacity of the Bank. Backed by the State and the regional Sparkassen organization, it encompasses more than 200 regional universal banks (Sparkassen) with their own combined balance sheet total of close on DM 97 thousand million.

The rapidly expanding international requirements of WestLB's customers have spawned a world-wide network of offices, subsidiaries, participations and correspondents, as well as membership in the illustrious Orion Banking Group.

Each of these international points of contact—staffed by experienced bankers—provides access to WestLB's universal banking know-how and highly developed specialized facilities.

Thus, for instance, WestLB through its London Branch and WestLB International in Luxembourg concentrates on Euro-finance to first-class risks. With Libra Bank Ltd, providing finance in Latin America. In other financial centres such as New York, Beirut and Tokyo, WestLB is represented by highly versed staff members.

But these are just a few examples of WestLB's international capacity. In fact, if it's a question of international presence, WestLB can serve you wherever it matters; directly or in partnership with others.

However, WestLB's world-wide activity is only one reason for considering it as your banking partner. There are other very important questions you must ask yourself before making a final choice. "Is the bank absolutely secure?" "Does it have the necessary experience?" "Is it efficient?" Get the full answers to these questions and find out about our specialized services; contact us directly or ask your local bankers to put you in touch with us.

WestLB

Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale a growing force in international banking

Düsseldorf P.O. Box 1128 London Branch: 21, Austin Friars, London EC2N 2HB, Telephone 01-6386141, Telex 887984

M Barr picture econom

to file EE on in Mar

Norway-Ru fisheries talks in dow

doctors contin

most pay curbe

Seven held police raid

EUROPE

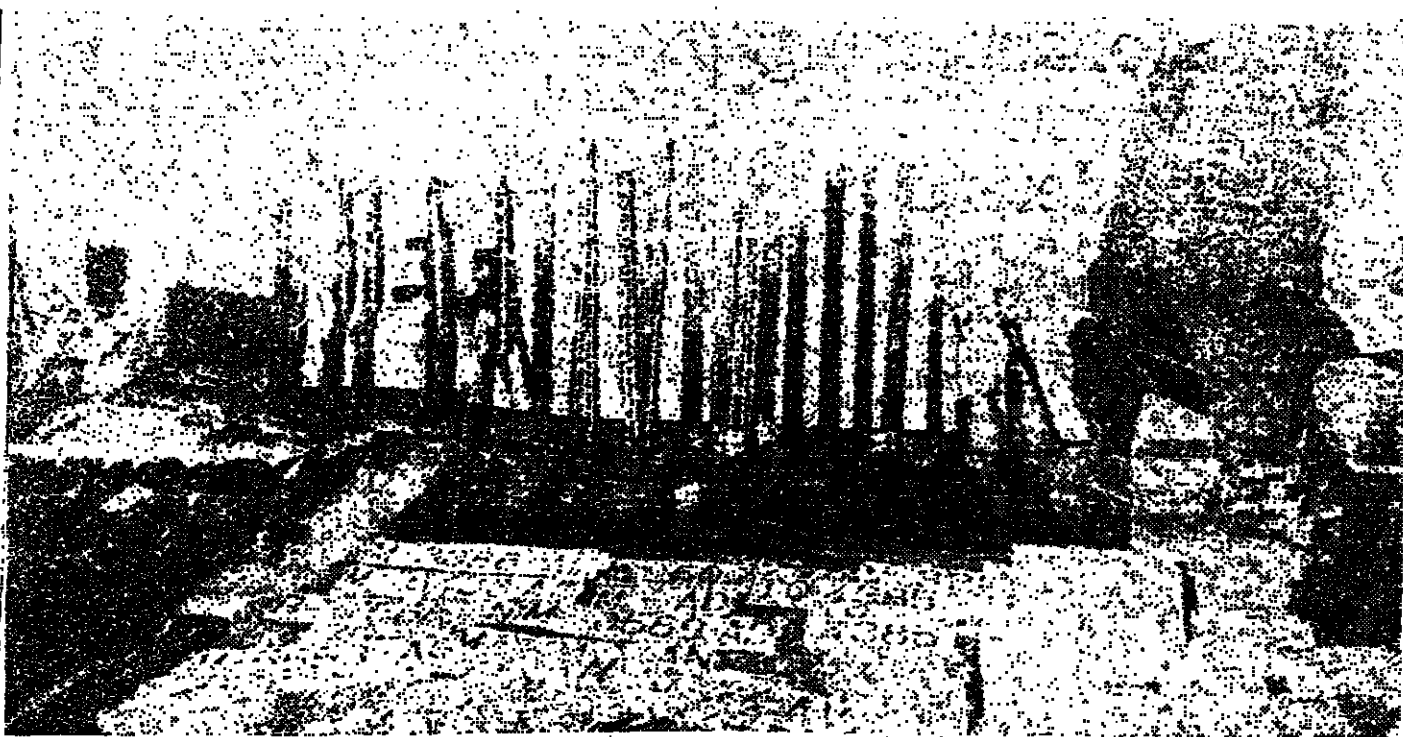
ish poll
inated
omestic

Free Dadd
n, Feb 15
voted today in a
lection which has
at almost entirely
sues. Last month Mr
rgensen, the Prime
Minister, dissolved the Folk-
eting. It had been de-
clared income, police,
unemployment and
other 12 parties con-
all but the three ou-
ng have emphasized
the election to be a
wing, however, con-
the ou-
Government policy with
age increases of 2
year for two years,
the Prime Minister
"unacceptable" of
the non-Socialist
gessen can be ex-
conclude in office
lection if his Social
Party does not lose
the election, polls
in the past few days
ad a good election
cial Democrats and
ies supporting the
ity, status quo fac-
ing the Liberal Par-
rals were in govern-
the last election
1975, and have
much of the blame
are 10 parties in the
ng and 11 are likely
urned

M Barre paints bleak
picture of France's
economic predicament

From Charles Hargrove
Bordeaux, Feb 15
M Raymond Barre, the
French Prime Minister, today
warned the country that the
unemployment situation would
get worse before it improved.
He was addressing a meeting
of the regional assembly of
Aquitaine, held at Montau-
marsau, a town in the Landes,
instead of at Bordeaux.
The Socialist members
turned up for the occasion, but
not the Communists, who have
not set in regional assemblies
since their creation in 1972.
Mr Barre painted an un-
varnished picture of the eco-
nomic situation. "I am not here
on an electoral tour", he said.
"I have come as Prime Minister
to make contact with a region
of France and study its prob-
lems."
"I shall not make promises I
cannot keep. When you ask me
to increase state aid for this or
that project, I will not say I
cannot do it, but I have to look
at problems in a national con-
text."
Beyond the short-term prob-
lems of prices and the trade
balance, there were other struc-
tural ones. The first was the
reorganization of certain indus-
trial sectors, like steel, ship-
building, aircraft construction,
textiles, and paper, by June,
the Government would
announce its decisions on them.
"Why not tell the truth?" he
said. "We have to face reality.
There will be a difficult phase
for employment. Some branches

of industry can survive only if
their manpower is trimmed.
They have recruited excessively
and paid excessively high
wages."
Then there are the national-
ized industries, whose deficit
cost the taxpayer 12,000m
francs (£1,430m) last year, and
finally the hole in the budget
of the social security system,
which in 1977, is estimated at
12,000m francs.
With these problems to solve,
the margin of manoeuvre for
the Government was very nar-
row. The improvement of
regional conditions was linked
to the health of the national
economy. "We have to take an
overall view of things", he said.
"All regional questions have to
be followed through. Since I
have taken office, I have noted
a certain discontinuity in the
handling of them, due to the
weight of the administrative
machine."
Introducing the three-hour
meeting of the regional assem-
bly, its chairman, M Jacques
Chaban-Delmas, former Prime
Minister and mayor of Bor-
deaux, said that in the past 20
years, the region had tried to
emerge from underdevelopment.
In the past seven years, he
said, its active population had
fallen. Its unemployment rate
was higher than the national
average and its production
lower.
The drift from the land was
alarming. "Aquitaine asks me
in favour of the Government",
he said. "It demands equality
of opportunity."



Police in Madrid display weapons, money, false licence plates and military uniforms seized in raids

Police find
Grapo
arms cache

Madrid, Feb 15. — Spanish
police said today that they had
solved the murders of five
police officers last year as a result
of arrests in the past week of
40 alleged members of the
extreme left-wing First of
October Anti-Fascist Groups
(Grapo) in connexion with
kidnapping of two senior
officials.
The police said that they had
also solved a series of bombings
and the disappearance of arms
and explosives from military
arsenals. Arms and 774 lb of
explosives had been found in
raids on suspected Grapo
members.
Freed from their kidnappers
in police raids last Friday were
Lieutenant-General Emilio
Villacueva, president of the
Supreme Council of Military
Justice, and Señor Antonio
Maria de Arlot, president of
the Council of State.
The Government today lifted

a ban on news about the kid-
nappings, but continued to ban
reports about police inquiries
into possible extreme right-wing
links with recent political
violence. This applied to
inquiries into the murder of
four Communist lawyers and a
January 24.
While Grapo is blamed for
the kidnappings, an extreme
right-wing group called AAA
(Anti-Communist Apostolic
Alliance) has claimed responsi-
bility for the murder of the
five communists, as well as of
a 15-year-old student shot during
a left-wing demonstration in
Madrid on January 23.

Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa,
the Minister of the Interior, has
promised to get to the bottom
of the violence and arrest those
responsible, no matter who they
are.
Señor Suárez, the Prime
Minister, last night concluded
negotiations with representa-
tives of opposition parties on
conditions for the general elec-
tion in the spring.
Applications to register from
political parties continued to
flow into the Interior Ministry.
The application of the Com-
munist Party is expected to be
subject to a ruling by the
Supreme Court.

Austria jails
hijacker
but refuses
extradition

Vienna, Feb 15. — A Pole,
aged 20, who hijacked an air-
liner with a dummy grenade
made of bread, a safety razor
handle and toothpaste tube,
was jailed for four years today.
A Vienna court found Andrzej
Karaszinski guilty of air piracy,
but said he would not be ex-
tradited to Poland unless it was
found that he was wanted there
for other crimes.
Mr Karaszinski hijacked a
Polish Airlines Tupolev 134 on
a flight from Copenhagen to
Warsaw on November 4, last
and forced the pilot to fly to
Vienna. The aircraft, carrying
29 passengers, landed with only
a few litres of fuel in its tanks.
Poland asked for his extradition
immediately after he was
rendered to police at Vienna.
He was the first person to be
convicted under a two-year-old
Austrian law making hijacking
a specific crime punishable by
up to five years in prison.
Mr Karaszinski was put on
board the aircraft as an undesir-
able alien after being convicted
of theft and forgery. Polish
newspapers criticized the
Danish authorities for failing to
inform Warsaw in advance.

Man bitten by pets
dies from rabies

Aarau, Switzerland, Feb 15. —
A 35-year-old man who was
bitten by a cat and a dog last
year died from rabies in
hospital at Baden.

Portugal to file EEC
application in March

Mortimer
will apply formally
ship of the Euro-
community next month,
Mario Soares, the
ster, has completed
the nine member
announced this at
ference before leav-
for Dublin yester-
s clearly extremely
h the warm recep-
from the
ment and the
Portuguese appli-
cation by Mr Callaghan
in his honour on
ht.
application will go
Commission for its
Soares said. Only
ould the Council of
e a decision on the
Portuguese mem-
bered this decision
eached by the end
or, at latest, early
so that detailed
uld get started.
out that, under exist-

ing agreements, Portugal should
be ready by 1985 to integrate
its economy with that of the
EEC countries "at least in its
industrial aspects". Dr Soares
said he hoped Portugal would
be recognized as a member of
the Community well before that
date.
There would be economic
advantages for the Community
in having Portugal as a member.
Dr Soares said it would
bring access to the Portuguese
market, mineral resources and
fishing zone, which, with the
new 200-mile limit, was par-
ticularly important. Portugal
would also be a link with Por-
tuguese-speaking countries in
Africa and South America.
Dr Soares spoke warmly of
Mr Callaghan as "a good old
friend who is also a comrade
in good and bad times", refer-
ring to the support Mr Callaghan
had given him both
against the Caetano dictatorship
and later against the threat of
a communist takeover.
Leading article, page 15

France holds
its base

Correspondent
15
Vance, the Ameri-
can Secretary of State, spent
hours at the Ameri-
can air base in the
s morning talking
al Galvão de Figue-
iredal's Minister in
representing Portu-
gal's regional Govern-
ment. Dr João Mota
e comunicado was
r the meeting.
man of the Portu-
gal Ministry denied
any formal discus-
sion America renewing
ent under which it
base.
egically located base
sland covers the
ic routes and was
Britain during the
ld War. The original
with the United
s terminated in Feb-
4, since when the
have been using it
oc basis.
nce in Israel, page 9

Norway-Russia
fisheries
talks in doubt

From Our Correspondent
Oslo, Feb 15
It seems likely that there
may be more serious con-
sequences than the over-
riding of Soviet espionage activities
in Norway which led to the
expulsion of six Russians, in-
cluding a diplomat, caught
while meeting his Norwegian
contact and to Soviet retalia-
tion in expelling two Norwe-
gian diplomats.
Norway is in the middle of
negotiations with the Soviet
Union about the delimitation
of fisheries zones in the
Barents Sea as well as about
the delimitation of the con-
tinental shelf in the same area.
No date has so far been
fixed for the next round of the
fisheries negotiations despite a
Norwegian offer to send rep-
resentatives to Moscow at any
time suitable for the Russians.
According to explanations in
Moscow Mr Ishkov, the Soviet
Minister of Fisheries, is ill, but
this did not prevent him from
taking part in talks in Brussels
yesterday.

nan doctors continue
against pay curbs

Own Correspondent
15
German doctors and
minuted their protest
overment plans to
cut health costs by
a one-day strike in
burg area of Lower
day.
associations reported
mplete support from
actioners in the dis-
protest began with a
rike in Hanover last
expanded emergency
at with critical cases.
work has been com-
the draft of a Bill
containing the high
medical treatment. The

Cabinet is expected to endorse
it tonight. It is designed to
discourage over-prescribing and
overlong stays in hospital and
to relax doctors' pay to gen-
eral economic developments.
One of the main disputed
figures given for the average
incomes of doctors from treat-
ing patients on the normal
medical insurance scheme. The
Ministry of Social Security sug-
gested an average annual in-
come of DM 180,000 (£45,000).
This was "at least DM 40,000
too high", a spokesman said.
Other sources place the average
annual income of doctors at
between DM 170,000 and DM
240,000.

in flights to
a renewed

Feb 15. — Britain
teved flights of RAF
bombers to Malta,
d after complaints
f flying. The Maltese
ent announced that the
ries had agreed to do
g possible to prevent
as the Vulcans land at
field.
expressed regrets
cent incident to which
n flew over Zabbar
No Vulcans are based
but several land at
ort. — Reuters.

Seven held after
police raids

Rome, Feb 15. — Police raided
an apartment here today and
arrested Renato Vallanzasca,
aged 28, who is wanted for
questioning about seven police
murders and a 22m kidnapping.
Within hours they had also
arrested four men and two
women believed to be his
associates.
Signor Vallanzasca has been
sought in connexion with neo-
fascist guerrillas and the
murder of a judge investigating
links between Italian kid-
napping gangs and extreme-
right political groups. — Reuter

Who says that British Industry isn't investing in progress?



£1 million expansion
for Roneo Vickers

Last year Roneo Vickers sold office
equipment worth over £100 million to
over 100 countries. Now we are
building a new £1 million factory for
the Group at Romford to meet a growth
in demand for stencil duplicators and
supplies, postal framing machines and
many other types of equipment.
Investment in ideas and development
has enabled us to design a push button
automatic stencil cutter with the
unique facility for producing offset
masters. More versatile than any
comparable machine, it enables people
in offices to take more and more
sophisticated printing jobs 'in house'.



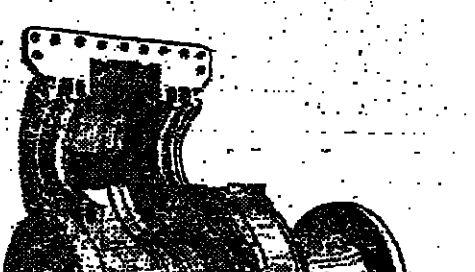
Vickers develop world markets
for medical equipment

The vital contribution that Vickers
Medical Engineering makes in
lifesaving infant care and other
medical fields, is worthy for exports too.
From portable incubators for Colombia
to advanced hypobaric equipment for
Russia, we are winning new markets
throughout the world with our skill,
resources and advanced technology.



Vickers increase their lead in
off-shore engineering

Vickers are amongst the world leaders in
submersibles and support craft for
off-shore engineering. When conditions
are tough, in what mariners term sea
state six, for example, Vickers expertise
really comes into its own. We are also
deeply involved in developing further
techniques, not only for off-shore oil
but across a far wider spectrum.



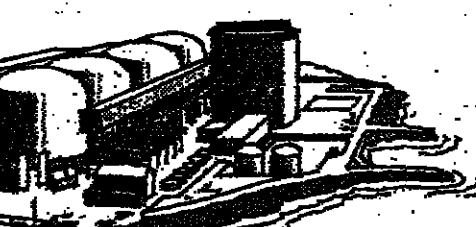
Vickers launch
£1.1 million programme for
Michell Bearings

White metal bearings continue to
contribute to progress in many
engineering fields. We are accelerating
the rate of progress with a new £1.1
million development programme at the
Newcastle plant of Michell Bearings.



Vickers extend a long-running
success in printing

The Olympic Gold and Marathon
printing plates from Howson-Algrup
were enormous advances in
lithographic printing and they have
won markets in over 90 countries.
Now we are investing in still more
technically advanced production
equipment and research facilities at
Leeds - ready for the next step forward.



Vickers improve
nuclear production facilities

Our leadership in producing loops and
test rigs in the U.K. for nuclear re-
search in many parts of the world is playing
a vital part in nuclear development
programmes. We have also expanded
our nuclear production facilities
overseas with another million square
feet of factory floor space in Canada,
producing large specialist components
used in nuclear stations like the one
illustrated here.



Vickers put new power into
automated machine tools

Making products to help other people
make products has long been one of
Vickers major engineering activities.
Now we are expanding our interests in
automated high-technology machine
tools through our recent investment in
Kearney and Trecker Marwin.



Vickers expand their interest
in the bottling industry

The supply of bottling plant for beer,
soft drinks and milk is another field
where potential demand continues to
be high. We are carrying out advanced
new projects in complete bottle
handling and filling, and are investing
in still more progress through our
Vickers-Dawson Division.



VICKERS
Building on strength.

OVERSEAS

10-storey fall from Johannesburg police headquarters turns spotlight on deaths in detention

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Feb 15

A young African plunged 10 storeys to his death at the John Vorster Square police headquarters in Johannesburg today after he had climbed on to a ledge outside the building, apparently in an attempt to escape.

Mr Matthews Mabilane was being detained under the Terrorism Act. His death brings to 18 the number of people who are known to have died in detention since last March. Of these, 15 were being detained for political reasons. A further six prisoners have died in Transvaal prisons.

According to a spokesman for the security police, from whose floor the man fell, the detainee opened a window and climbed through before anyone could stop him. He stumbled while running along a narrow ledge and fell into a parking area at the back of the building.

The high number of deaths in detention during recent months has provoked expressions of concern by opposition politicians and churchmen.

At a conference of Roman Catholic bishops in Pretoria last week expressed "grave misgivings" about such deaths.

Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Police, recently stated in an interview that some of the

dead were members of the banned African National Congress who were committing suicide on the orders of the Communist Party.

In Parliament today Mr Kruger refused to answer six Opposition questions regarding the number of deaths, injuries, detentions and subsequent court cases resulting from last year's rioting.

The opposition newspaper, *Road Daily Mail*, has compiled a list of people who have died while detained for political reasons.

Mr Joseph Mdluli, aged 50, a former member of the African National Congress, died within 24 hours of being detained in Durban last March. Four security policemen were acquitted of charges of culpable homicide in connection with his death.

Mr Mapelela Mphahle, aged 25, a former official of the South African Students' Organization, died in an East London police station on August 4. The police said he hanged himself with his jeans.

Mr Luke Mazembe, Mr Jacob Mashabane, and Mr Ernest Masasela are also said to have hanged themselves.

Mr Wellington Tshabane, an employee of the De Beers Lesotho Mining Company, died on December 11, three days after being detained. Police

said he committed suicide.

Mr George Botha, a Port Elizabeth schoolteacher, died on December 15, five days after being detained. The police said he jumped six floors down a stairwell.

Meanwhile, legislation tabled in Parliament today proposes the doubling of fines for violations of the country's pass laws, which control the movement of blacks in "white" areas. An amendment to the existing law would increase fines from £32 to £64 or three months' imprisonment or both for violations.

The pass laws dictate that blacks must always carry reference books ("passes") which are endorsed by the authorities and specify where they may live and work. They are used to control the influx of blacks from rural to urban areas. There are no similar restrictions on the movements of whites.

Mr Sybrand van Niekerk, administrator of Transvaal province, said the government would take steps this week to "deregelate" four Roman Catholic schools in Johannesburg and Pretoria if they continued to admit black pupils.

Father Domitius Schooten, secretary-general of the bishops' conference, said the Church was not going to give way on its open schools policy.

Gandhi son one of few youth candidates

From Kuldip Nayar Delhi, Feb 15

Mr Sanjay Gandhi has been nominated to stand as the Congress Party candidate for the Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, next to Ravi Bhatnagar, the constituency of his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

Mr Gandhi is 30 and leader of the Youth Congress but the youth wing has not done well. It does not have more than 12 candidates among the 320 party names announced so far.

At one time, the Youth Congress expected 200 seats, but then the number dwindled and now its members are only a handful. It is really the departure of Mr Jagjivan Ram, who has constituted a separate party, Congress for Democracy, that has affected its fortunes.

The Congress Party's list shows that it has preferred to "stay with the old". The contest of one member of the old guard is that it is better to depend on the known and tried people than on the unknown youth.

The candidates fielded today by the Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh, which has 52 seats in the Lok Sabha, are mostly sitting members. This has been the pattern in other states. Mrs Gandhi is visiting her constituency on Thursday to file the nomination papers, the last date for doing so.

Mr D. K. Borooah, the Congress Party president, said in a statement today that the Opposition was a disparate group and that the Congress Party would give stability to the country.

"Let us be clear that the choice is not between democracy and dictatorship, for democracy we have and cherish, else there would be no free elections," he said.

"The choice is between going forward with freedom towards peace, progress and prosperity,



His mother's portrait in the background, Mr Sanjay Gandhi makes an election speech.

or returning to disorder and chaos."

The Janata Party announced that agreement had been reached between Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Janata Party in Tamil Nadu.

Delhi, Feb 15.—Mr Sanjay Gandhi will be opposed by Mr Ravinder Pratap Singh, a 35-year-old lawyer, who will stand for the Janata Party. He is an unknown force.

The contest is likely to be one of the most interesting and significant in the entire election, in spite of the fact that

Mr Gandhi seems to have a safe seat.

His influence on Congress affairs, even though he holds no elective office, and his direction of a controversial campaign of mass sterilization, have made him an election issue.

Mr Ram's defection jolted senior Congress members into pressing Mr Gandhi and his youth Congress back from the endangered position they had taken in the party. Mr Ram signed partly over Mr Gandhi's growing influence and

his defection has greatly increased Opposition hopes of winning the election, which will be held from March 16 to 20.

Mr Georges Fernandes, the Socialist Party chairman who is facing trial on charges of conspiracy to overthrow the Government by force, will contest the Muzaffar constituency in the eastern state of Bihar.

Mr Fernandes, aged 46, will stand for the Janata Party. He is a bitter opponent of Mrs Gandhi, and was arrested in June last year.—Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

Pretoria conference takes a chance on alienating white congregations as well as the Government Catholic bishops challenge apartheid

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg, Feb 15

Not since the late Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Geoffrey Clayton, opposed the Government's "church clause" of the Native Laws Amendment Act (under which Africans may be prevented from attending services in a "white" area) has the hierarchy of a church come out so openly against the Government's race policies as have the Roman Catholic bishops.

In issuing a 21-point action programme at the end of their conference in Pretoria last week the bishops have taken a stand against the whole structure of racial segregation and discrimination. Having professed to be "one and undivided", they have given notice that they intend to practise what they preach.

By South African standards the bishops' programme is uncompromisingly radical. An official of the anti-apartheid Christian Institute even described it as "momentous".

After first opening Catholic schools to children of all races, the bishops' programme intends to desegregate its hospitals and other institutions. The bishops have come out in favour of conscientious objection, at a time when the Government is preparing the white population to stand alone against the black.

They have also spoken out against alleged police brutality, a particularly sensitive issue. Most significantly, the bishops have declared themselves unequivocally on the side of black consciousness, and all those who work for "the promotion of human dignity and the legitimate aspira-

tions of oppressed people".

Many churchmen of all denominations in South Africa are expressing themselves such terms for a long time. Examples such as Dr Beyers Naude, Father Cosmas Desmond, Father Aeldred Stubbs or Father David Russell come to mind. But they have been speaking as individuals.

The importance of the Catholic bishops' stand is that the Church—one of the largest in South Africa, with a congregation of about two million—has identified itself with black aspirations.

"They are beginning to see things from a black person's viewpoint," the Christian Institute official commented. "At last the authentic black voice is being heard."

It has taken time for this voice to be heard. This is perhaps not altogether surprising because, although 80 per cent of the Catholic laity are black, 80 per cent of its clergy are white. Of the 31 bishops at last week's conference, all but five were white.

Catholic leaders admit that the Church has dragged its feet in the past. Father Domitius Schooten, an official of the Bishops' Conference, said Catholics had allowed themselves to fall behind in their Christian attitudes and that some "catching up" was now necessary.

The bishops' pronouncements seem certain to bring into conflict not only with the Government but with some white members of their congregation.

With the murder of seven Catholic missionaries in Rhodesia still fresh in people's minds, many whites find it in-

comprehensible that the church leaders in South Africa and Rhodesia should wish to ally themselves with militant blacks while at the same time failing (in their view) to take a strong stand against "black terrorism".

This argument is vigorously rejected by the Archbishop of Durban, Mr Denis Hurley, one of the Church's most outspoken opponents of apartheid. "They fling in the teeth of churchmen the death of missionaries in Rhodesia. They do not remember the deaths of 12 black detainees in South African jails in the past year," he said.

Archbishop Hurley, who recently had a petrol bomb thrown at his home, blames South Africa's segregationist policies for the failure of most whites to comprehend black attitudes. Because they have no contact with blacks themselves, he understands that the system they support is oppressive. Because they see only a threat of communist-inspired black terrorism, they become indignant at the very suggestion of conscientious objection.

The Catholic bishops have clearly decided that the time has come for them to stand up and be counted among those who believe that white rule is oppressive of the majority and therefore wrong. They see it as the duty of the Church—and of individual Christians to try to influence about changing the position.

However, if the Catholic precedent is followed by the Anglican and Methodist congregations, that could pave the way to the creation of a united Church opposition to the Government's race policies.

Czech guards search German reporter

Vienna, Feb 15.—A West German journalist was last night ordered off the Prague-Vienna express. After a check of his belongings and a body search by Czechoslovak security guards he had to walk nearly two miles to the Austrian border.

Herr Walter Kratzer is 29 and a reporter of the West German magazine *Stern*, whose Vienna office disclosed the incident today. It was nearly identical to what happened to Mr Paul Hofmann, of *The New York Times* on Saturday.

The *Stern* office said that on Saturday Herr Kratzer had been taken from his Prague hotel at 7 am and conveyed to police headquarters. There he was interrogated for four hours on his contacts with Czechoslovak human rights groups.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper *Rude Pravo* published on Saturday a copy of a letter, which it said had been seized from Herr Kratzer and which contained information on the dissidents he was to contact in Czechoslovakia.

Rude Pravo claimed that Herr Kratzer had been gathering material "which came in handy for the collection of lies *Stern* had published in the second half of January".—AP.

Prague: *Rude Pravo* today accused the West of campaigning for human rights spokesmen in communist countries to cover up its own infringements of these rights.

It said that the West was "trying to draw attention away from the fact that Britain stands before the international court in Strasbourg because its soldiers tortured political prisoners". It also mentioned massacres in South Africa and the detention of political prisoners in Chile.

The newspaper said that "small groups of dropouts, political adventurers and traitors who have no influence in socialist countries and who represent no one" were supplying fuel for a campaign planned, coordinated and financed from the West.

"These lies are aimed at covering up the fact that it is the capitalist states which are shamelessly trampling upon human rights." Their campaign was to hide the fact that there was no true democracy in the capitalist world.—Reuters.

Secretive life of a dissident press

Paul Hofmann The New York Times Correspondent recently in Prague

A middle-aged man in a park on the left bank of the Vltava pulled a few sheets out of his briefcase and gave them to a foreigner who was walking with him. "My poor wife has been at the typewriter for most of the night," said the man with the briefcase, a well-known writer.

You know, it is a crime for a private Czechoslovak to operate a copying machine, so we have to type everything and pass our relatives and friends the service."

The writer is among a group of about 20 who run a two-year-old semi-secret publishing venture known as *Padlocked Editions*. The enterprise provides an outlet for authors who are blacklisted by the Government and cannot have their books printed.

"I can't tell you what the circulation of *Padlocked Editions* is, honestly," said Mr Lucik Vaculik, a member of the publishing ring. "Issues go from hand to hand, and many people in the chain make their own copies and circulate them among their own friends."

vaculik, who has signed Charter 77, a plea for broader human and civil freedoms in Czechoslovakia, has been literary outlaw since July 1968, when he published a manifesto that became known as the "2000 Words," which called for increasing liberalization. A month later Soviet-led troops invaded Czechoslovakia.

He would discuss his role in Charter 77. He said the police had questioned him for six to eight hours a day for a week last month, warning to know how Charter 77 had been drafted.

He said he had written an account of the police questioning. According to Mr Vaculik, the typewritten literature from *Padlocked Editions* is not exactly illegal, but the state views it with extreme dislike.

To avoid trouble, contributors cultivate an elusive style, leaving many things unsaid and relying on being read between the lines.—New York Times News Service.

US to make more use of UN human rights study

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Feb 15

The United Nations Human Rights Commission is to be "a much more significant component in shaping American foreign policy than it has been at times in the past," Mr Allan Lowenstein, the new United States representative on the commission, said today.

"We have to try to find common purposes in the commission overlapping concerns about human rights," he told a news conference. "We have to be candid in saying what we feel. There can be no valid conclusions without this."

Mr Lowenstein, who appeared last week to be on the point of breathing fire over the arrest of Soviet dissidents, today adopted a more measured tone on this issue. He said his delegation was canvassing the views of other delegations to decide on how best to proceed.

By 23 votes, for three against six abstentions, the commission passed a resolution critical of Israel for "violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine."

Dictatorship planned for Sri Lanka

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 15

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian physicist, has publicly called on President Carter to continue with his policy of speaking out in support of civil rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

In a television interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Dr Sakharov said that any hesitancy or partial retreat would give the Kremlin the impression that the new administration would succumb to blackmail and repression.

Any sign of weakness would have an effect on all aspects of relations between East and West, including the negotiations on disarmament, he said.

Dr Sakharov's comments were made from his Moscow, at a time when other dissidents under increasing pressure from the Soviet authorities, been warned that he arrest if he again make "derogatory" statements.

In his interview he spoke in Russian terms, with a paragraph, a CBS correspondent, that the bold, moral adopted by Mr Carter, his hope and respect, denied that support of rights round the world rests in the hands of the affairs of other countries.

It was, he said, a matter of the preservation of democratic moral values. American people, as a whole of humanity, their freedom in the

M Giscard gives ban pledge on S African arms

Brazzaville, Feb 15.—President Giscard d'Estaing last night assured President Mousa Mawa of Gabon that France would continue its ban on sales of military equipment to South Africa for air and land forces.

In a speech at a reception given by Colonel Traore, the French President reaffirmed that among the essential aims of French policy was the strengthening of the capacity of Africans to resist foreign interference.

He declared that the aims of France and Mali were identical: majority rule for Rhodesia, independence for Namibia (South-West Africa), and condemnation of the policy of apartheid, "which affronts human dignity".

Mr Giscard d'Estaing said the Franco-African summit to be held in April at Dakar should aim at rebuilding a world economic order that would be accepted by all. He noted that this summit should reach conclusions in time for them to be studied by the conference of industrialized countries next May.

The French leader left for Paris today at the end of his two-day visit.—Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

New head of Rhodesia call-up

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Feb 15

The youngest member of the Rhodesian Cabinet, Mr Rowan Croxall, has been given one of the most onerous responsibilities in the Smith administration, that of handling military manpower requirements.

Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, announced that setting up of a National Manpower Board in the House of Assembly today when members reconvened after a five-month adjournment.

Mr Croxall, aged 39, will head the board, which takes over these duties from Mr Reginald Cowper, who resigned last week as Minister of Defence and of Co-ordination because of disputes over the increased call-up of men to fight the guerrilla war.

Mr Croxall is a former Dutch Reformed Church minister, is the present Minister for Labour, Health and Social Welfare. Articulate and energetic, he retains his other portfolio. Mr Smith did not announce a

new Minister of Defence, nor did he make any statement on his latest initiatives to reach a settlement with moderate blacks inside Rhodesia and placate some of the more radical racial discriminationists.

Salisbury, Feb 15.—The defence budget tabled in Parliament today has been increased to £92m, just under a fifth of the national budget.

Meanwhile, security forces made reports that Tanzania has seized 60 large Kenyan lorries, which were carrying loads to and from Zambia under an agreement to which the Tanzanian Government is a party.

Tanzania closed the frontier between the two countries last month after East African Airways was grounded because of a cash crisis.

An emergency meeting of the East African communications and finance councils, made up of ministers from the three countries, was to have been held yesterday but was postponed.

Nigeria move to heal Kenya's rift with Tanzania

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Feb 15

Nigeria today called on Kenya and Tanzania to settle their border dispute, which has seriously affected tourist traffic in the East African states.

The peace initiative came amid reports that Tanzania has seized 60 large Kenyan lorries, which were carrying loads to and from Zambia under an agreement to which the Tanzanian Government is a party.

Tanzania closed the frontier between the two countries last month after East African Airways was grounded because of a cash crisis.

An emergency meeting of the East African communications and finance councils, made up of ministers from the three countries, was to have been held yesterday but was postponed.

Mr Rowland in Argentina for Falklands talks

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires, Feb 15

Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, arrived here today at the start of a visit which is seen as new British initiative intended to clarify the future of the Falkland Islands.

After a call tonight on Admiral Cesar Guzzetti, the Argentine Foreign Minister, he is flying to the islands tomorrow by chartered Argentine aircraft for a five-day visit. He will then have two days of talks in Buenos Aires.

Mr Rowlands told journalists his purpose was to discover whether a basis existed for renewing negotiations with Argentina over the future of the islands. He was seeking of Anglo-Argentine relations during the Peronist Government, which was deposed by the Argentine military last March.

During his meetings with representatives of the 1,900 Falkland Islanders, Mr Rowlands said he would hold broad discussions on how they see their future. He would inquire into the prospect for "a new political framework" for cooperation with Argentina, he added.

The Shackleton report, issued last year, argued that the islands were economically viable only within a framework of cooperation with Argentina. Britain has made clear that the interests of islanders are its primary concern, and that "nothing can be accomplished behind their backs".

Cost of US freeze estimated at £3,500m

From Peter Strafford New York, Feb 15

Americans in the eastern part of the United States are making the most of the milder weather these days. But the effects of the recent cold spell are lingering on, and there are warnings that it is after all only mid-February, so the cold may return.

Preparations are being made in case there is flooding along the rivers as the accumulated snow and ice melt. Latest estimates by the Department of Commerce are that more than 500,000 people are still temporarily out of work because of the shortage of natural gas, not to mention all the schools that are still closed.

It is clear that the United States, and its economy, have taken quite a beating. The extent of the damage will take some time to work out, but Time magazine quoted \$6,000m (£3,500m) for the overall cost.

Time pointed out that many economists expected the losses, especially wages, to be made up quickly through overtime. But they will still take a big slice out of the tax rebates with which President Carter hopes to revive the economy this year; and the inflationary effect is likely to last far longer.

The winter has also taken its toll of life. No final figure of victims has yet been established, but in Buffalo alone—where there is a population of about one million—at least 25 people died because of the snowstorm, which almost buried the city in several feet of snow.

Some were people who froze to death in their cars; others were locked over by snow ploughs or had heart attacks while shovelling snow. It took days to get the streets back to normal.

The same was true of Watertown, New York State, a much smaller city north-east of Buffalo, which had even more snow. Mr Pat Fioretti, the superintendent of public works, said that they had had

Sakharov 'do not weaken appeal to Mr Carter

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 15

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian physicist, has publicly called on President Carter to continue with his policy of speaking out in support of civil rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

In a television interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Dr Sakharov said that any hesitancy or partial retreat would give the Kremlin the impression that the new administration would succumb to blackmail and repression.

Any sign of weakness would have an effect on all aspects of relations between East and West, including the negotiations on disarmament, he said.

Dr Sakharov's comments were made from his Moscow, at a time when other dissidents under increasing pressure from the Soviet authorities, been warned that he arrest if he again make "derogatory" statements.

In his interview he spoke in Russian terms, with a paragraph, a CBS correspondent, that the bold, moral adopted by Mr Carter, his hope and respect, denied that support of rights round the world rests in the hands of the affairs of other countries.

It was, he said, a matter of the preservation of democratic moral values. American people, as a whole of humanity, their freedom in the

blockade at appeal

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 15

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian physicist, has publicly called on President Carter to continue with his policy of speaking out in support of civil rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

In a television interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Dr Sakharov said that any hesitancy or partial retreat would give the Kremlin the impression that the new administration would succumb to blackmail and repression.

Any sign of weakness would have an effect on all aspects of relations between East and West, including the negotiations on disarmament, he said.

Dr Sakharov's comments were made from his Moscow, at a time when other dissidents under increasing pressure from the Soviet authorities, been warned that he arrest if he again make "derogatory" statements.

In his interview he spoke in Russian terms, with a paragraph, a CBS correspondent, that the bold, moral adopted by Mr Carter, his hope and respect, denied that support of rights round the world rests in the hands of the affairs of other countries.

It was, he said, a matter of the preservation of democratic moral values. American people, as a whole of humanity, their freedom in the

Criticisms Privy Council death ap

By Marcel Berlins

As a campaign in Trinidad to save a murderer from execution by lawyers in England (way the Judicial Council the Privy Council de case,

At the end of 1 after a one-hour h committee refuser Branches leave to at Trinidad still remain Council as its ultim of appeal.

The only hope c now lies in the Pr Trinidad, to whom has been sent.

In London, Mr solicitor, Mr Benedic and other lawyers v ledge of the case, ar at the approach tak Privy Council to h tion.

Mr Branches to death in 1972 for der of a taxi-dr Ramjattan Ramdeen The evidence was t ial. He was the l seen in the taxi l driver's body was f is motive was su established for the k Mr Branches has p innocence throughout

The main contro rounds the medical inquiring the elec This concluded: Ramdeen had died o caused by strangulat

Since the trial, Britain's leading p has sworn an affida that the procedures c in Trinidad were c and contrary to goo practice.

Dr Eric Wright, p morbid anatomy and pathologist at King Hospital, London, p his affidavit that t rests and observations to determine the caus were not carried out

There were, he say medical evidence, five possibilities of deat occurred by natura There were, in addi other ways in which d have occurred by th tion of only minor v

Dr Wright conclude report of the autopsy on the driver was " It was "unsafe and tory for determining of death or for a whether death occu direct or causal violence at all"

The Privy Coun take into account that saying that it was in because it could h available at the Branches's lawyers i that there were no fi finance for obtaini evidence before, and : was no independent v available in Trinidad

Mr Birnberg claim Privy Council's appoa introduction of new was more restrictive of the English Court o He especially critic Judicial Committee, accepting evidence p what he called a "ma caning of the justice"

The petition for appeal also include of points based inadequacy of ide and the judge's allea to instruct the jury about a number of issu summing up.

Dictatorship planned for Sri Lanka

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 15

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian physicist, has publicly called on President Carter to continue with his policy of speaking out in support of civil rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

In a television interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Dr Sakharov said that any hesitancy or partial retreat would give the Kremlin the impression that the new administration would succumb to blackmail and repression.

Any sign of weakness would have an effect on all aspects of relations between East and West, including the negotiations on disarmament, he said.

Dr Sakharov's comments were made from his Moscow, at a time when other dissidents under increasing pressure from the Soviet authorities, been warned that he arrest if he again make "derogatory" statements.

In his interview he spoke in Russian terms, with a paragraph, a CBS correspondent, that the bold, moral adopted by Mr Carter, his hope and respect, denied that support of rights round the world rests in the hands of the affairs of other countries.

It was, he said, a matter of the preservation of democratic moral values. American people, as a whole of humanity, their freedom in the

kidnap victim police chase

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 15

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian physicist, has publicly called on President Carter to continue with his policy of speaking out in support of civil rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

In a television interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Dr Sakharov said that any hesitancy or partial retreat would give the Kremlin the impression that the new administration would succumb to blackmail and repression.

Any sign of weakness would have an effect on all aspects of relations between East and West, including the negotiations on disarmament, he said.

Dr Sakharov's comments were made from his Moscow, at a time when other dissidents under increasing pressure from the Soviet authorities, been warned that he arrest if he again make "derogatory" statements.

He'll be wild for you when you give him...

bazuka

MEN'S AFTERSHAVE/COLOGNE

by Jean Pierre

RSEAS

Concern in Israel over American support for Vance flies in

Marsden
Feb 15
The first was the view on the sale of 24 Israeli-made Kfir interceptors to Ecuador, on the ground that the Kfir has an American engine and other parts. It is a severe blow to the nation's growing arms export industry, which would have earned about \$20m.

The second shock came from President Carter's decision to review President Ford's decision to supply Israel with ultra-modern weapons, including tanks, and a new type of "cluster bomb" which has not yet been exported to any country.

A third setback has been the State Department's warning that Israel's drilling in the Gulf of Suez is illegal because it contravenes international law covering occupied areas. Apart from its curb on oil prospecting, this could have ominous implications for Israel's policy of continuing to build Jewish settlements in her conquered Arab lands.

Israel's leaders are expected to make a strong plea to the Secretary of State to reconsider these decisions.

These subsidy issues will cut into the Mr Vance is hoping to use to explore the prospects for moves towards a settlement of the Middle East peace talks.

Damascus: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) today denounced American policy in the Middle East as "an employe element." "It will barter exactly what it has invested in Lebanon and Cambodia," said Mr Abdul Abu Maizar, PLO spokesman here from Cairo last night with Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader.—Reuter.

ians lift blockade of Arafat appeal

Fish
Feb 15
The chairman of the liberation Organisation, resident Assad of Beirut, at least temporarily lifted the blockade of the refugee camps in Syrian troops of the peacekeeping force.

ed that the Syrians to enter the Palestinian settlements within a week. Then the state of ended after part of the Syrian President's army force eight Syrian guerrillas over Damascus.

y that you have put excesses from the and other combat-Lebanese war." Mr reported to have also hope that your "I'll not run out now," a sources in Beirut it that an extract message had been of context. They that the appeal had latory rather than

un-backed newspaper suggested that the was indeed trying to ur with President ported that the PLO until after the aid of Mr y force eight Syrian guerrillas

en life for can 'plot'

Feb 15.—A Gsa- today sentenced 44 nists to life imprisonment on charges of plotting overthrow of an monarchy and the of a people's republic as is first

a of the defendants uring the six- they included Mr Serfay, a Moroccan nging engineer. He been the first presi- the overthrow of

n also sentenced 132 lading from three women, terms ranging from years. Three had nces suspended.

ound kidnap victims ued in police chase

Correspondent
Feb 15
napping yesterday in teacher and his nine to held overnight by was an astonishing incident in 1972, no people were ro- a van today. Beside teacher and his nine they included two d three lorry drivers, gun battle with the lwin John Eastwood, previously convicted ping, was arrested. ent took place in the area of Victoria, bourne.

own was on the run escaped from Geelong eember 14. He and yde Boland had been of the kidnapping on 1972, at St. pupils cher from the small school, 62 miles north- delbourne. Both were 2 sentences.

yesterday, Mr East- med with a 33 broke into the small Wooreen, 74 miles of Melbourne. The lden, aged between 11, and Mr Robert their teacher who is bundled into the back en van. A note was

This week's guest column is by Judy Wilson.

With I speak of "making conversation" I am not referring to the polite, often stilted, often even the spontaneous pouring of words to a stranger who appears to share one's own interest. No, I mean the grinding small talk between people who know nothing of each other's lives, interests or emotions; or, worse still, conversation through an interpreter; in this case the conversation should be as banal as possible, in order to avoid misunderstandings.

Small talk conversations usually take place at dinner tables, and should be either much shorter, or ideally much longer, because the subjects are just warming-up with the final course, and often part the best of friends, never to meet again.

Making conversation is an art which, in spite of years of experience, I have never properly acquired. I once heard a Royal Personage talk for five minutes about the weather—she made it really interesting. Oh, how I envied her! Brought up as I was, by loving but strict parents, in a Puritan household, I was not encouraged to speak at all, at meal-times. After Grace was said, the children were expected to eat in silence. There wouldn't be any conversation: "children should be seen and not heard," we were told. "Only speak when you are spoken to." (Although I used to object, with Alice, that if everyone obeyed that rule, there wouldn't be any conversation!) I am still amazed when I see children just out of the toddling stage, handing round drinks and making conversation with the guests at their parents' cocktail parties.

At boarding-school there were attempts to teach us the art of public conversation. We sat at table in houses, rather than forms, so that each table held a mixture of girls of all ages. According to the table-plan, we moved round to place each day in order to have different neighbours, so that in turn we sat beside the mistress at the head of the table, and coddled our brains to think of suitable innocuous comments to make on the round. Two places each were hampered because we were not allowed to read the daily papers until we were in the Sixth Form. Selected items from *The Times* were read out to us after breakfast, by the Senior Mistress, on duty, but no scandal, no news of violence or murder reached our ears. Inhibitions were placed upon asking for food at table; no "Please may I



have some bread?" or "Pass the milk." We had to wait until a neighbour asked "What will you have?" However, any turpitude could be overcome by a discreet nudge.

All this early training made me, I hope, a good listener. Most people are happy to talk if there is someone reasonably attentive to listen. But if the conversation is slow, I think it is a mistake to dart a series of questions at your neighbour and then sit back. Asking questions is a genuine interest in the people you meet. I have always found that after a few preliminary questions and answers, it helped to talk a little about myself, with a modicum of nonsense thrown in. Not everyone has a diary at the ready!

I remember when the first

The discreet art of making small talk

The great community health survivors

The stringent economies now being forced on the National Health Service provide an opportunity that could make or break those 200 Cinderellas of the 1974 reorganisation: the Community Health Councils.

Beleaguered health service officials and unions are beginning for the first time to see CHCs as something other than threat, nuisance, or sheer irrelevance. In fact, as potential allies in fighting the cuts, it is a situation not without appeal to the CHCs, many of which are still groping for a role.

By leaping to the defence of hospitals and other familiar services now under threat, they stand to win popular attention that has eluded most so far. In the same stroke they could draw closer to NHS establishments which, perceiving coldly the CHCs' lack of power, responsibility, or expertise, have kept them determinedly at arm's length. To be effective, allies must be armed with at least some knowledge of what the fight is about.

But there is danger too for CHCs in this approach, for it assumes that the interests of the NHS and the public are synonymous, which is clearly not the case, or not necessarily so. The 1973 Act requires CHCs to represent the consumer interest in the health service and thus potentially effect the consumer interest. But to represent it effectively, CHCs would need to make a critical assessment of the effect on local communities of the measures proposed, and of possible alternatives.

This they are simply not equipped to do, in terms either of resources or information. Most CHCs survive on a budget of under £20,000 a year, one or two secretaries, a small office, and about 30 members, most of whom have competing claims on their time. For information they are dependent almost entirely on the local NHS administration.

A consumer cost benefit analysis of the local health service, in the unlikely event that any CHC found itself with the resources to do it, would almost certainly uncover widespread inefficiency and waste, including perhaps the superfluity of an entire layer of the health administration set up in 1974. It would doubtless close too the working of that familiar law of the established organization by which it prunes the outside in, which generally means at the expense of the consumer before the producer. Since the CHCs' duty is to view the situation from precisely the opposite end, as it were, a collision seems unavoidable and the extent to which

Bunter is immortal

Billy Bunter is alive and well and is aged 82, living in a double-fronted house on a hill road curving out of Wimbledon. You would expect it to be called Bunter Villa—or at least Greyfriars, after the public school made famous by the Owl of the Remover. It is the latter, however, that has usurped the fraternal label: Mouk's Rest. Bunter's domicile bears a more secular name: The Gables.

He lives on the second floor and through his window you can see the green of the Surrey hills. There are no jam tarts, no fruit cakes, and no crum horns on view: nothing, in fact, to recall the great gaffer's early, golden days.

There is, however, a colored map of Bunterland in a little rooming off of green Kent countryside, ending in a small cliffs. All around the room, shelves groan under the weight of Bunterabilia: volumes upon volumes about his exploits, and those of his Greyfriars chums.

The prosaic try is, of course, that it is a book of covers of these books that William George Baker has his continued existence seems to be rampaging spirit in the house, and you can almost feel the distant echoes of his mous cry of "Yarooooo!"

He is, in fact, a 51-year-old Anglo-Irishman whose immense professional energy flows from the powerhouse of nostalgia. He has it, in a double-edged sword, upon a ridge with a fair that under his left many of his rivals' breathers.

As a path, he hungrily

devoured his weekly copies of *The Magnet* magazine in which the Bunter saga was chronicled by Charles Hamilton, the literary phenomenon who wrote under the pen-name of Frank Richards, died in 1940, victim of the wartime paper shortage, its companion paper, *The Gyn* did not long survive it.

A hard casualty was the *Schoolboys' Own Library*, a pocket-sized monthly which reprinted earlier stories from *The Magnet* and *Gem*. Its final issue, appearing in 1940, was a Bunter story. The young Howard Baker promised himself that one day he would find out how that story, a tale set in Egypt, ended. And that, for the time being, was that.

Denied their natural habitat, between the salmon-colored paper covers of *The Magnet*, Bunter and Co. fitfully lived on in the bleaker, alien environment of paperback, and then, in the 1950s and early 1960s, Howard Baker edited *The Sexton Blake Library* publications and wrote many of himself—thrillers, and occult tales like the splendidly titled *Venuses of Finstere*. He set himself up as a publisher, but, as he ruefully admits, launched too many titles too quickly. His company was taken over, but he stayed in publishing, though on a more modest scale. In time was now set for the spectacular re-entry of Bunter.

Howard Baker remembered the unfinished Bunter adventure in the *Schoolboys' Own Library* 25 years before. In the vaults of the Amalgamated Press, owners of the Greyfriars copyright, he found the 1932 copies of *The Magnet* in which the adventure yarn originally

appeared. Having at last discovered how the Egyptian story ended, he shared the experience with the rest of the English-speaking world. He had the copies of *The Magnet* lithographed, put them between hard covers, and published them as a single volume.

Greyfriars had been restored to its true environment, the slim columns of *The Magnet*. And, for Bunter fans, now greyer and more worldly than the *Magnet* boys who killed off, it was a second adolescence.

Not only grandfathers, rejoiced, so did their sons and grandsons, discovering *The Magnet* for the first time. The hope expressed in an obituary on *The Magnet* in *The Times* in 1940 was being fulfilled. The writer looked forward to the day when Greyfriars would be resurrected, "and a new generation of boys will read every line (about Bunter and Co) and be the better for it, on the whole."

That was nine years ago. Since then, at the rate of one a month, bound facsimile editions of *The Magnet*, *The Gem*, and the *Holiday Annual* (collaborations of stories by Hamilton and his contemporaries) have poured into the bookshops, and sell as fast as they arrive.

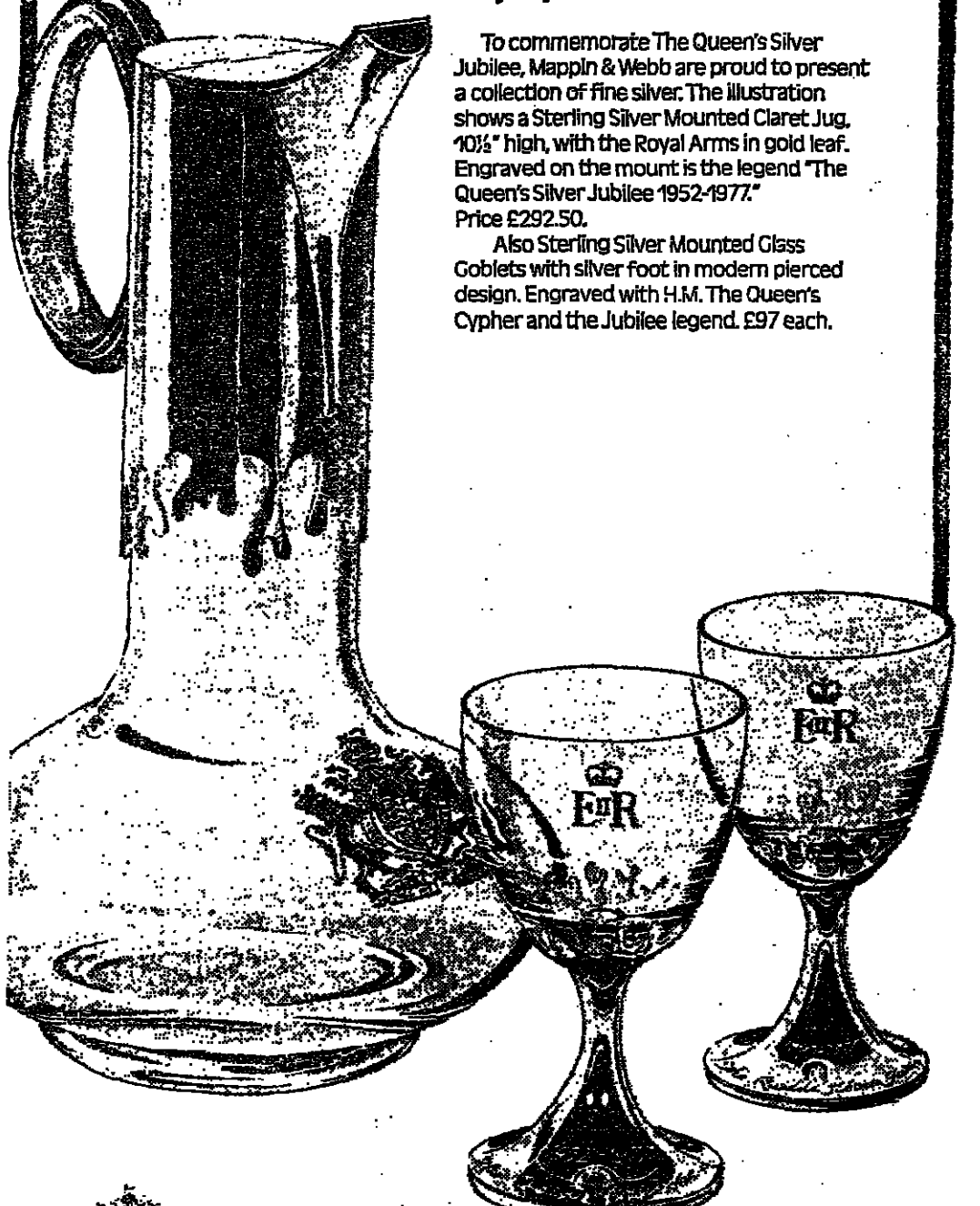
Not only has Howard Baker resurrected Greyfriars, but in his occasional *Magnet* Companion volumes, he has created an archive about the school's history, its staff and its pupils. It is the most detailed documentation of a Never Never Land since Tolkien's.

Charles Hamilton expended millions of words on the odyssey of Billy Bunter, Howard Baker, plunging nightly in his Wimbledon office through old copies of *The Magnet* to find material for his facsimiles, has a lifetime's work still ahead of him. It seems that Bunter's immortality is guaranteed.

Mappin and Webb Jubilee Silver

This photograph of the Mappin and Webb Silver Jubilee punch bowl, ladle, coaster and goblet, all in silver with gilt trim, should have appeared with Sheila Black's description of the pieces on yesterday's Shopping page, instead of a photograph of a silver centre piece by Garrard which was inadvertently used. Apologies all round.

Celebrate the great occasion with Mappin & Webb



To commemorate The Queen's Silver Jubilee, Mappin & Webb are proud to present a collection of fine silver. The illustration shows a Sterling Silver Mounted Claret Jug, 10 1/2" high, with the Royal Arms in gold leaf. Engraved on the mount is the legend 'The Queen's Silver Jubilee 1952-1977'. Price £292.50.

Also Sterling Silver Mounted Glass Goblets with silver foot in modern pierced design. Engraved with H.M. The Queen's Cypher and the Jubilee legend. £97 each.

Mappin & Webb, 2 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TL.
Please send me your Silver Jubilee brochure which illustrates the entire collection including the pieces shown above.

Name _____
Address _____

the final RT
spin bowler
Way
go
nningly
Ascot

el Phillips,
respondent
will be no shortage of
Ascot today. The
amphibian hurdle, Lanzarote
has his third race over
this course in the
am Steeplechase. Before
Grand National entries
tried their hand in the
Tudor Handicap Steeple-
chase last year's Cesarewitch
Cup winner, John
Lancaster, has his third
National Hunt rules in
the Novices Hurdle.

they make up their mind
to run Lanzarote in the
at Cheltenham or in
Sun Alliance Steeple-
chase. Lord Howard de
Waldry first want
now he faces in the
own Steeplechase, a race
surely win if he has any
to being a Gold Cup
after this race be-
cause of the way he
y anxious that Lanzarote
in some experience of
inces while racing down
Cheltenham.

was hurdling Lanzarote
record at Ascot where
ve times over distances
from two miles to three
quarters. Clearly the
f this afternoon's race
dier him. What remains
is whether the fences
Heir are capable of up-
ing. Arctic Heir has
on over today's course
beating Never Rock
ights, but when it dis-
s race with Winter he
was not concerned
opposition. Clearly he
is in the race to win
win again, which when
to think of it will be
Indeed it will be both
and disappointing if he

Winter and Francoise
to be far away from
the Fernbank Hurdle with
who has already proved
it he stays here
the well in France as
f five-year-old, but
time ago and now at the
it even he should not
of giving. The race
has emerged this season
promisingly stayer.
Grand National entries
eld for the Whitbread
sesteechase are April
Older Way, but only
e already won the Whit-
ld Cup; King Flame,
minal and Winter Robin,
each won twice in the
ago by beating Sony
other of this afternoon's
y three lengths. This
handicapper has given
an undoubted
y to get his revenge, but
getting a bit long in the
I doubt whether either
Seven or Winter Robin
inter-chaser. Our view
uch a pleasing race at
ark earlier this month.
y to his owner and
iver Carter. The Irish
one a proper gallop for
hs before he ran at San-
the circumstances Carter
have been delighted to
Way in the thick of
ght up to the last
here he was still
s Master H

OF GOING officials: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th, 679th, 680th, 681st, 682nd, 683rd, 684th, 685th, 686th, 687th, 688th, 689th, 690th, 691st, 692nd, 693rd, 694th, 695th, 696th, 697th, 698th, 699th, 700th, 701st, 702nd, 703rd, 704th, 705th, 706th, 707th, 708th, 709th, 710th, 711st, 712th, 713th, 714th, 715th, 716th, 717th, 718th, 719th, 720th, 721st, 722nd, 723rd, 724th, 725th, 726th, 727th, 728th, 729th, 730th, 731st, 732nd, 733rd, 734th, 735th, 736th, 737th, 738th, 739th, 740th, 741st, 742nd, 743rd, 744th, 745th, 746th, 747th, 748th, 749th, 750th, 751st, 752nd, 753rd, 754th, 755th, 756th, 757th, 758th, 759th, 760th, 761st, 762nd, 763rd, 764th, 765th, 766th, 767th, 768th, 769th, 770th, 771st, 772nd, 773rd, 774th, 775th, 776th, 777th, 778th, 779th, 780th, 781st, 782nd, 783rd, 784th, 785th, 786th, 787th, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st, 792nd, 793rd, 794th, 795th, 796th, 797th, 798th, 799th, 800th, 801st, 802nd, 803rd, 804th, 805th, 806th, 807th, 808th, 809th, 810th, 811st, 812th, 813th, 814th, 815th, 816th, 817th, 818th, 819th, 820th, 821st, 822nd, 823rd, 824th, 825th, 826th, 827th, 828th, 829th, 830th, 831st, 832nd, 833rd, 834th, 835th, 836th, 837th, 838th, 839th, 840th, 841st, 842nd, 843rd, 844th, 845th, 846th, 847th, 848th, 849th, 850th, 851st, 852nd, 853rd, 854th, 855th, 856th, 857th, 858th, 859th, 860th, 861st, 862nd, 863rd, 864th, 865th, 866th, 867th, 868th, 869th, 870th, 871st, 872nd, 873rd, 874th, 875th, 876th, 877th, 878th, 879th, 880th, 881st, 882nd, 883rd, 884th, 885th, 886th, 887th, 888th, 889th, 890th, 891st, 892nd, 893rd, 894th, 895th, 896th, 897th, 898th, 899th, 900th, 901st, 902nd, 903rd, 904th, 905th, 906th, 907th, 908th, 909th, 910th, 911st, 912th, 913th, 914th, 915th, 916th, 917th, 918th, 919th, 920th, 921st, 922nd, 923rd, 924th, 925th, 926th, 927th, 928th, 929th, 930th, 931st, 932nd, 933rd, 934th, 935th, 936th, 937th, 938th, 939th, 940th, 941st, 942nd, 943rd, 944th, 945th, 946th, 947th, 948th, 949th, 950th, 951st, 952nd, 953rd, 954th, 955th, 956th, 957th, 958th, 959th, 960th, 961st, 962nd, 963rd, 964th, 965th, 966th, 967th, 968th, 969th, 970th, 971st, 972nd, 973rd, 974th, 975th, 976th, 977th, 978th, 979th, 980th, 981st, 982nd, 983rd, 984th, 985th, 986th, 987th, 988th, 989th, 990th, 991st, 992nd, 993rd, 994th, 995th, 996th, 997th, 998th, 999th, 1000th, 1001st, 1002nd, 1003rd, 1004th, 1005th, 1006th, 1007th, 1008th, 1009th, 1010th, 1011st, 1012th, 1013th, 1014th, 1015th, 1016th, 1017th, 1018th, 1019th, 1020th, 1021st, 1022nd, 1023rd, 1024th, 1025th, 1026th, 1027th, 1028th, 1029th, 1030th, 1031st, 1032nd, 1033rd, 1034th, 1035th, 1036th, 1037th, 1038th, 1039th, 1040th, 1041st, 1042nd, 1043rd, 1044th, 1045th, 1046th, 1047th, 1048th, 1049th, 1050th, 1051st, 1052nd, 1053rd, 1054th, 1055th, 1056th, 1057th, 1058th, 1059th, 1060th, 1061st, 1062nd, 1063rd, 1064th, 1065th, 1066th, 1067th, 1068th, 1069th, 1070th, 1071st, 1072nd, 1073rd, 1074th, 1075th, 1076th, 1077th, 1078th, 1079th, 1080th, 1081st, 1082nd, 1083rd, 1084th, 1085th, 1086th, 1087th, 1088th, 1089th, 1090th, 1091st, 1092nd, 1093rd, 1094th, 1095th, 1096th, 1097th, 1098th, 1099th, 1100th, 1101st, 1102nd, 1103rd, 1104th, 1105th, 1106th, 1107th, 1108th, 1109th, 1110th, 1111st, 1112th, 1113th, 1114th, 1115th, 1116th, 1117th, 1118th, 1119th, 1120th, 1121st, 1122nd, 1123rd, 1124th, 1125th, 1126th, 1127th, 1128th, 1129th, 1130th, 1131st, 1132nd, 1133rd, 1134th, 1135th, 1136th, 1137th, 1138th, 1139th, 1140th, 1141st, 1142nd, 1143rd, 1144th, 1145th, 1146th, 1147th, 1148th, 1149th, 1150th, 1151st, 1152nd, 1153rd, 1154th, 1155th, 1156th, 1157th, 1158th, 1159th, 1160th, 1161st, 1162nd, 1163rd, 1164th, 1165th, 1166th, 1167th, 1168th, 1169th, 1170th, 1171st, 1172nd, 1173rd, 1174th, 1175th, 1176th, 1177th, 1178th, 1179th, 1180th, 1181st, 1182nd, 1183rd, 1184th, 1185th, 1186th, 1187th, 1188th, 1189th, 1190th, 1191st, 1192nd, 1193rd, 1194th, 1195th, 1196th, 1197th, 1198th, 1199th, 1200th, 1201st, 1202nd, 1203rd, 1204th, 1205th, 1206th, 1207th, 1208th, 1209th, 1210th, 1211st, 1212nd, 1213th, 1214th, 1215th, 1216th, 1217th, 1218th, 1219th, 1220th, 1221st, 1222nd, 1223rd, 1224th, 1225th, 1226th, 1227th, 1228th, 1229th, 1230th, 1231st, 1232nd, 1233rd, 1234th, 1235th, 1236th, 1237th, 1238th, 1239th, 1240th, 1241st, 1242nd, 1243rd, 1244th, 1245th, 1246th, 1247th, 1248th, 1249th, 1250th, 1251st, 1252nd, 1253rd, 1254th, 1255th, 1256th, 1257th, 1258th, 1259th, 1260th, 1261st, 1262nd, 1263rd, 1264th, 1265th, 1266th, 1267th, 1268th, 1269th, 1270th, 1271st, 1272nd, 1273rd, 1274th, 1275th, 1276th, 1277th, 1278th, 1279th, 1280th, 1281st, 1282nd, 1283rd, 1284th, 1285th, 1286th, 1287th, 1288th, 1289th, 1290th, 1291st, 1292nd, 1293rd, 1294th, 1295th, 1296th, 1297th, 1298th, 1299th, 1300th, 1301st, 1302nd, 1303rd, 1304th, 1305th, 1306th, 1307th, 1308th, 1309th, 1310th, 1311st, 1312nd, 1313th, 1314th, 1315th, 1316th, 1317th, 1318th, 1319th, 1320th, 1321st, 1322nd, 1323rd, 1324th, 1325th, 1326th, 1327th, 1328th, 1329th, 1330th, 1331st, 1332nd, 1333rd, 1334th, 1335th, 1336th, 1337th, 1338th, 1339th, 1340th, 1341st, 1342nd, 1343rd, 1344th, 1345th, 1346th, 1347th, 1348th, 1349th, 1350th, 1351st, 1352nd, 1353rd, 1354th, 1355th, 1356th, 1357th, 1358th, 1359th, 1360th, 1361st, 1362nd, 1363rd, 1364th, 1365th, 1366th, 1367th, 1368th, 1369th, 1370th, 1371st, 1372nd, 1373rd, 1374th, 1375th, 1376th, 1377th, 1378th, 1379th, 1380th, 1381st, 1382nd, 1383rd, 1384th, 1385th, 1386th, 1387th, 1388th, 1389th, 1390th, 1391st, 1392nd, 1393rd, 1394th, 1395th, 1396th, 1397th, 1398th, 1399th, 1400th, 1401st, 1402nd, 1403rd, 1404th, 1405th, 1406th, 1407th, 1408th, 1409th, 1410th, 1411st, 1412nd, 1413th, 1414th, 1415th, 1416th, 1417th, 1418th, 1419th, 1420th, 1421st, 1422nd, 1423rd, 1424th, 1425th, 1426th, 1427th, 1428th, 1429th, 1430th, 1431st, 1432nd, 1433rd, 1434th, 1435th, 1436th, 1437th, 1438th, 1439th, 1440th, 1441st, 1442nd, 1443rd, 1444th, 1445th, 1446th, 1447th, 1448th, 1449th, 1450th, 1451st, 1452nd, 1453rd, 1454th, 1455th, 1456th, 1457th, 1458th, 1459th, 1460th, 1461st, 1462nd, 1463rd, 1464th, 1465th, 1466th, 1467th, 1468th, 1469th, 1470th, 1471st, 1472nd, 1473rd, 1474th, 1475th, 1476th, 1477th, 1478th, 1479th, 1480th, 1481st, 1482nd, 1483rd, 1484th, 1485th, 1486th, 1487th, 1488th, 1489th, 1490th, 1491st, 1492nd, 1493rd, 1494th, 1495th, 1496th, 1497th, 1498th, 1499th, 1500th, 1501st, 1502nd, 1503rd, 1504th, 1505th, 1506th, 1507th, 1508th, 1509th, 1510th, 1511st, 1512nd, 1513th, 1514th, 1515th, 1516th, 1517th, 1518th, 1519th, 1520th, 1521st, 1522nd, 1523rd, 1524th, 1525th, 1526th, 1527th, 1528th, 1529th, 1530th, 1531st, 1532nd, 1533rd, 1534th, 1535th, 1536th, 1537th, 1538th, 1539th, 1540th, 1541st, 1542nd, 1543rd, 1544th, 1545th, 1546th, 1547th, 1548th, 1549th, 1550th, 1551st, 1552nd, 1553rd, 1554th, 1555th, 1556th, 1557th, 1558th, 1559th, 1560th, 1561st, 1562nd, 1563rd, 1564th, 1565th, 1566th, 1567th, 1568th, 1569th, 1570th, 1571st, 1572nd, 1573rd, 1574th, 1575th, 1576th, 1577th, 1578th, 1579th, 1580th, 1581st, 1582nd, 1583rd, 1584th, 1585th, 1586th, 1587th, 1588th, 1589th, 1590th, 1591st, 1592nd, 1593rd, 1594th, 1595th, 1596th, 1597th, 1598th, 1599th, 1600th, 1601st, 1602nd, 1603rd, 1604th, 1605th, 1606th, 1607th, 1608th, 1609th, 1610th, 1611st, 1612nd, 1613th, 1614th, 1615th, 1616th, 1617th, 1618th, 1619th, 1620th, 1621st, 1622nd, 1623rd, 1624th, 1625th, 1626th, 1627th, 1628th, 1629th, 1630th, 1631st, 1632nd, 1633rd, 1634th, 1635th, 1636th, 1637th, 1638th, 1639th, 1640th, 1641st, 1642nd, 1643rd, 1644th, 1645th, 1646th, 1647th, 1648th, 1649th, 1650th, 1651st, 1652nd, 1653rd, 1654th, 1655th, 1656th, 1657th, 1658th, 1659th, 1660th, 1661st, 1662nd, 1663rd, 1664th, 1665th, 1666th, 1667th, 1668th, 1669th, 1670th, 1671st, 1672nd, 1673rd, 1674th, 1675th, 1676th, 1677th, 1678th, 1679th, 1680th, 1681st, 1682nd, 1683rd, 1684th, 1685th, 1686th, 1687th, 1688th, 1689th, 1690th, 1691st, 1692nd, 1693rd, 1694th, 1695th, 1696th, 1697th, 1698th, 1699th, 1700th, 1701st, 1702nd, 1703rd, 1704th, 1705th, 1706th, 1707th, 1708th, 1709th, 1710th, 1711st, 1712nd, 1713th, 1714th, 1715th, 1716th, 1717th, 1718th, 1719th, 1720th, 1721st, 1722nd, 1723rd, 1724th, 1725th, 1726th, 1727th, 1728th, 1729th, 1730th, 1731st, 1732nd, 1733rd, 1734th, 1735th, 1736th, 1737th, 1738th, 1739th, 1740th, 1741st, 1742nd, 1743rd, 1744th, 1745th, 1746th, 1747th, 1748th, 1749th, 1750th, 1751st, 1752nd, 1753rd, 1754th, 1755th, 1756th, 1757th, 1758th, 1759th, 1760th, 1761st, 1762nd, 1763rd, 1764th, 1765th, 1766th, 1767th, 1768th, 1769th, 1770th, 1771st, 1772nd, 1773rd, 1774th, 1775th, 1776th, 1777th, 1778th, 1779th, 1780th, 1781st, 1782nd, 1783rd,

PM hints at help for churches and charities over new surcharge

House of Commons
The Government made a concession to churches and charities and decided not to impose on them the full insurance surcharge of the employees' contribution this should not be used as a foundation on which to build other logical but not necessarily equally worthy concessions. Mr James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said. And if the House could agree on a limited solution, he would ask the Chancellor what could be done.

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab.) had told Mr John Pardon (North Cornwall, L.) on January 21 that a concession on the National Insurance surcharge should not be imposed on churches or charities, particularly small ones. He would ask the Chancellor to see if it could be done.

I understood to consider their representations very carefully and am now looking at the problem to see if a solution can be found.

Mr Pardon—Part of his difficulty is his fear that any concession might be taken as a precedent for other interested groups and would be seized on by other parties in the House for political purposes. The Liberal Party, at least, will guarantee to take no political advantage. (Some laughter.)

Mr Callaghan—The Leader of the Opposition (Mr Margaret Thatcher) to give a similar guarantee? That would make things very difficult.

Mr Callaghan—I am not used to these generous offers, but the problem of representations is important here. I am not sure, however, that the Government will be able to do this. I would like to find a way of meeting them which would not involve a lot of expenditure which would not be justified on the same grounds in other cases.

Mr Christopher Price (Leisham, West, Lab.)—Has he read Lord Gorman's report on charities? He judges issues, including that of the charitable status of public schools. Our October, 1974, manifesto said we would withdraw that status. Are the Government going to do anything about it?

Mr Callaghan—We did not discuss that when I met the deputation. This was not their purpose. But I have not yet read that report. If the issues are judged to be not at all sure we get much enlightenment. (Laughter.)

But I would pass no comment on the clarity and logic of Lord Gorman's thinking on any matter. But I will seek advice on this, but I am not sure we can produce new legislation in this House in its present frame of mind. (Laughter.)

Mr Michael Latham (Melton, C.)—It is all the more important that the Government did for the churches and charities over the Community Development Finance Bill. That is a concession which should be taken as a precedent for other interested groups and would be seized on by other parties in the House for political purposes. The Liberal Party, at least, will guarantee to take no political advantage. (Some laughter.)

Mr Callaghan—The Leader of the Opposition (Mr Margaret Thatcher) to give a similar guarantee? That would make things very difficult.

Mr Callaghan—I am not used to these generous offers, but the problem of representations is important here. I am not sure, however, that the Government will be able to do this. I would like to find a way of meeting them which would not involve a lot of expenditure which would not be justified on the same grounds in other cases.

Government considering putting industrial studies into the school curriculum

The Government were discussing with the schools the question of putting industrial studies as part of the curriculum. Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said.

Mr Nigel Forman (Sutton, Con., C.) had asked what plans she had to deal with the problems involved in the relationship between education and industry.

Mrs Williams (Hertford and Stevenage, Lab.)—I hope to announce proposals relating to the schools when the extensive consultations now in progress are complete.

I am also considering the many existing links between industry and higher and further education might be strengthened, but I intend to have discussions with others concerned before reaching conclusions.

Mr Forman—While welcoming that promise, of a policy, it is not its fulfilment, a career in industry for many young people will only become attractive again if they have a prospect of making the crushing burden put upon them by this Government.

In the case of schools, the first thing to do is to set adequate teaching in mathematics and technical subjects which will better equip young people to enter industry where the demands of technology mean that more and more young people will require those skills to succeed.

Mrs Williams—The Opposition constantly argue for individual industrial studies. I am not sure that is a very strong general case.

There is a project called "Teaching about industry," maintained by the Science Council, run by the CBI. In addition we are discussing with the schools the question of making industrial studies a part of the curriculum. This matter will be covered in the great debate.

Mr George Rodgers (Chorley, Lab.)—It is not the business of education to provide a service to industry. (Labour cheers.)

Mrs Williams—We bear that constantly in mind and are against the idea that education is simply about producing educational pegs to go into secure holes, but when industry democracy may be the next horizon of democracy in this country, it would be irresponsible for the schools not to familiarize young people with the patterns of industry.

Mr Peter Emery (Hendon, C.)—What consultation has she had with the Council of Professional Management Organisations and individual management institutes who would be delighted to help her in the relationship between education and industry?

Mrs Williams—My department is generally in touch with a number of professional institutes and also with the CBI, chambers of commerce and so forth. Many will be represented at the debates which are shortly to take place.

Mr Robin Carbutt (Hemel Hempstead, Lab.)—Would she pay particular attention to the need to improve the educational standards of the managers? Less than one of five managers in British manufacturing industry are educated up to university or equivalent standard.

Mrs Williams—I would not think that management education was a desirable aim for schools, but management education at the higher education level is important and I am sure that being given how to direct more of this to the problems of management in industry.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, chief of the Education Committee (Chelmsford, C.)—The principal reason why there is difficulty in getting young people to go into industry is the lack of a social mobility. It is a social mobility which is being propagated by the notion that the purpose of industry is to exploit those who are working in it.

Mrs Williams—That is no doubt an argument that he can pursue with others. Industry, whether in public or private hands, is the source of the basic needs of this country. (Conservative cheers.) That is a matter that needs to be got across in education.

Mr Foot proposes consultative not mandatory referendums for Wales and Scotland: MPs have final say

The Government's decision that the referendums on devolution to be held in Scotland and Wales should be consultative and not mandatory was announced by Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House (Ebbw Vale, Lab.), when the committee stage of the Scotland and Wales Bill was resumed.

Mr Foot said that on the constitutional basis of the proposals, the Government had considered carefully the concern expressed in Thursday's discussion and in part the amendments on the question of substance rather than that of procedure. The Government recognized that there was a genuine uneasiness evident to some degree in all parts of the House about the concept of the referendum which would be mandatory for a new clause or an amendment to be moved in committee, for discussion to take place upon it, for representations to be made to the Government and for the Government to say "We will take into account what has been said and at a later stage of the Bill seek to make a particular action." He hoped the House would accept that the proper way to proceed was by debate.

One of the troubles about the proposition that all precedents on the Bill should be held up and a referendum held before and now was that it would be a referendum on the people in the referendum would be holding like a shield against the question the Government were proposing to move once the Bill had become an Act.

It was much better that the proposition that people should have to be asked to vote on the Bill as a referendum should be held up and a referendum held before and now was that it would be a referendum on the people in the referendum would be holding like a shield against the question the Government were proposing to move once the Bill had become an Act.

There was nothing wrong with consulting the people on special occasions. His conversion to the idea of selective referendums came during the campaign of 1975 because it dawned on him that the referendum was the only chance for the great silent majority of all parties to express themselves collectively.

Mr Leopold Abse (Pontypool, Lab.) said that the new clause was that it gave a clear recognition by the Government that they had never had a referendum on the issue of devolution. The Government did not have a referendum on the issue of devolution. The Government did not have a referendum on the issue of devolution.

Mr John Gifford (Orkney and Shetland, L.) said whether they liked it or not referendums were now part of the political scene. He would like to see the Government to have one on the Common Market and one over this Bill. It would be difficult to go against this precedent.

His view was that they should accept that and give careful consideration as to when referendums were permissible, how they should be held and where they should take place in the constitution.

The party system was out of touch with great sections of the community and could no longer be said to represent them on all issues. On most issues the parties themselves were divided.

Mr Foot said that the Government were not prepared to treat Parliament as an elite organization.

There was a case for a referendum on the issue of devolution. It should be confined to the minimum of cases. The Common Market Bill and this Bill, entitled a shift in sovereignty.

Mr Frank (Argyll, Scot. Nat.) said it would be no part of his party's case to destroy a Scottish Assembly. Their case would be to put the issue of devolution to the people of Scotland, if some self-referendum was held, that Scots could turn their country and make it a better place if it had been done up to now.

Scottish nationalists would go to the Scottish Assembly, fight democratically to win seats and help to make the Assembly a reality. In the second place, they wanted to elect as many MPs as possible to Westminster to work within the framework of the Government of the House with a view to bringing about a greater degree of independence.

Mr Douglas-Mann (Milton, Lab.) said that the House had a duty to consider the strength of the case for a referendum on the issue of devolution. He would like to see the Government to have one on the Common Market and one over this Bill. It would be difficult to go against this precedent.

His view was that they should accept that and give careful consideration as to when referendums were permissible, how they should be held and where they should take place in the constitution.

Donation eyes and kidneys weekend

Mr Robert McCordie and Omgar, C, asked of State for Social Services was impossible for Mr McCordie to donate his son if death took place weekend.

Mr Roland Moyle, State, said in a written reply that it was not possible for Mr McCordie to donate his son if death took place weekend. He said that the services are available seven days a week but the radius of the hospital is such that it is not possible for Mr McCordie to donate his son if death took place weekend.

Mr Moyle—Arrangements for donation of eyes and kidneys for medical purposes are determined locally. Mr Moyle—Arrangements for donation of eyes and kidneys for medical purposes are determined locally.

Mr Moyle—Arrangements for donation of eyes and kidneys for medical purposes are determined locally. Mr Moyle—Arrangements for donation of eyes and kidneys for medical purposes are determined locally.

Mr Callaghan's warning on unwarranted rises

An unwarranted level of earnings increases during the next year would lead to one of two things, more inflation or higher unemployment, and there was no escape from that dilemma, the Prime Minister said at question time.

He had been asked by Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry, North-West, Lab.) Would the Prime Minister in the course of meeting the CBI bring to the attention of Lord Watkinson that the union would like to see much more of his commitment to get the rate of price increases down to 5 per cent by the end of the year while Lord Watkinson is feeling in the mood for giving this commitment, would he also give a commitment to increase new jobs by the end of the year in manufacturing industry?

Mr James Callaghan—The commitment made by Lord Watkinson was that he would like to see the rate of price increases down to 5 per cent by the end of the year, 1978. Who would not? (Laughter.)

Mr Callaghan's warning on unwarranted rises

This depends upon pursuing policies that ensure that inflation does not increase. This in turn must arise from an export-led growth, more than a consumption-led growth. I don't want to see inflation work at all.

It also depends very much upon the level of earnings increases during the next 12 months. If the level of earnings increases leads to one of two things—either to more inflation or higher unemployment. There is no escape from that dilemma.

Mr Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C.)—Does the Prime Minister recall that when he wound up the economic debate in October he made the claim that all the indicators were pointing in the right direction, including unemployment?

On a day when we have had another indicator about industrial production and unemployment, he can expect no help at all from the Opposition because they represent

Wrong ti to phase payment parents

Phasing out or abolishing contributions would add £120m to public funds, Mr Gordon Oakes of State for Education said.

He told Mr Anthony (Bradford, C.) that according to a survey undertaken by the Department of Education, the cost of all students with awards in Great Britain less than the full value of the award would be £120m. The total shortfall (about £10m or £90 p. head) would be met by the Government.

Mr Newton—These figures show that the Government are becoming a shambles to both students and to their parents. There is agreement to this contribution to the cost of the award, but the Government are not doing anything about it.

Mr Oakes (Widnes, Lab.)—The Government are phasing out the parental contribution. It will be abolished by the end of the year. The cost of the award will be £120m. The total shortfall (about £10m or £90 p. head) would be met by the Government.

Resistance to elevation as Lord Skinner of Bolsover

There was loud laughter during exchanges between the Prime Minister and Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab.) over the Honours list.

Mr Skinner, questioning the Prime Minister about his engagements today, said: Will he be meeting his political advisers? If he does will he be meeting the Honours list? Then will he take out a large sheet of cream—(cries of "lavender")—white, not lavender, paper and write on the words "several" and "Skinner" and prolonged laughter.)

Resist that remark for a start. And write on it the words "the Honours list" and "Skinner" and I intend to abolish it.

Mr James Callaghan—I shall meet my political advisers today. I rarely move without him. It is well known that everything I say is put into my mouth by him.

As to Mr Skinner's position I take note of his denial that he wishes to appear in the Honours list. I am not sure whether it is modesty or whether he got some other reason for not wanting to appear in the Honours list. I am not sure whether it is modesty or whether he got some other reason for not wanting to appear in the Honours list.

Opposition to change in school transport rules

Local authorities had been resisting any proposals for change in the financial assistance towards the cost of school transport. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said.

Those who benefited from the free arrangements had also shown their opposition to any change. Mr George Rodgers (Chorley, Lab.) had asked what progress had been made in the consultations with local authorities. He said that the Government were not in a position to make any decision at present.

Mr Rodgers—The situation is absurd. Discussions have been going on for a long time. I am not sure whether it is modesty or whether he got some other reason for not wanting to appear in the Honours list.

Voluntary work Bill

Mr Anthony Steen (Liverpool, Watney, C.) was granted leave to introduce the Protection of Voluntary Work Bill to protect the work of voluntary organisations, community and neighbourhood organisations and self-help groups by ensuring that each local authority allocated a minimum of 10 per cent of its voluntary work to non-statutory endeavour.

He said the purpose of the Bill was to protect voluntary work and to accord it greater recognition. Using voluntary work organisations was one way to provide cheaper and more effective services than what local authorities were able to provide and they had seen the advantages of it. Giving caught up with red tape.

The Bill would provide a framework for the development of voluntary work and to ensure that it was given the same status as statutory work.

Retraining in teaching in mathematics

The Department of Education said that it was considering proposals for retraining teachers in mathematics. Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said.

She said that the Government were considering proposals for retraining teachers in mathematics. She said that the Government were considering proposals for retraining teachers in mathematics.

Aircraft and Shipbuilding Bill report very soon

House of Lords
A report from the Examiners on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill was expected very soon. Lord Peart, Lord Privy Seal, said.

Lord Oor-Ewing had asked when the report would be made. He said that the report would be made very soon. He said that the report would be made very soon.

Proposal for change in patent law attacked

Viscount Eccles accused the Government of "making a swipe" at the academic community during the committee stage of the Patents Bill.

He moved an amendment to Clause 1 (Novelty) to provide that disclosure of information about an invention should be disregarded where the disclosure was effected by the inventor in a paper presented as a thesis for the award of a degree at a university or polytechnic, or read before a learned society or published with his consent in the proceedings of a learned society.

He said the amendment was intended to restore a benefit which the academic community enjoyed under the present law. He said that the Government were not taking any notice of the amendment.

Rural transport experiments to start in summer

Rural transport experiments would start in the summer in North Yorkshire, Devon, South Yorkshire and Wales, said Lord Stedman, Baroness of Walsingham, Secretary of State for Transport.

She said that the Government were conducting experiments in rural transport. She said that the Government were conducting experiments in rural transport.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Scotland and Wales Bill, committee stage.
House of Lords
Today at 2.30: Short debate on the report of the Committee of Enquiry into the State of the Nation.

Support for principle of lending right reaffirmed

The Earl of Gowrie (C), for the Opposition, said that the second reading of the Bill in less than two years. Authors were justified in feeling cynical and sceptical about the Bill designed to redress the grievance they shared.

Authors had had a bad deal from the public libraries but the Conservative Party had rescinded the Bill. They desired to help authors but suspected that the Bill would be a nominal sum and this would give him protection.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Estimated subsidy for school meals at £427m

The latest estimate of estimated school meals for the current financial year of the cost of subsidising school meals was £427m, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said.

She said that the Government were estimating the cost of subsidising school meals at £427m. She said that the Government were estimating the cost of subsidising school meals at £427m.

A labour of love

Mr Eric Mowman (Boscombe, Lab.) asked the Lord President of the Council how many copies of the Labour Party's new Labour Party were being distributed to Labour Party members.

Mr Michael Foot, in a reply, said that the Labour Party was distributing a large number of copies of the Labour Party to Labour Party members.

41,500 in prison

Mr Bernard Jenkin (Bristol, Conservative) asked the Home Secretary how many people were in prison for drug offences in 1976.

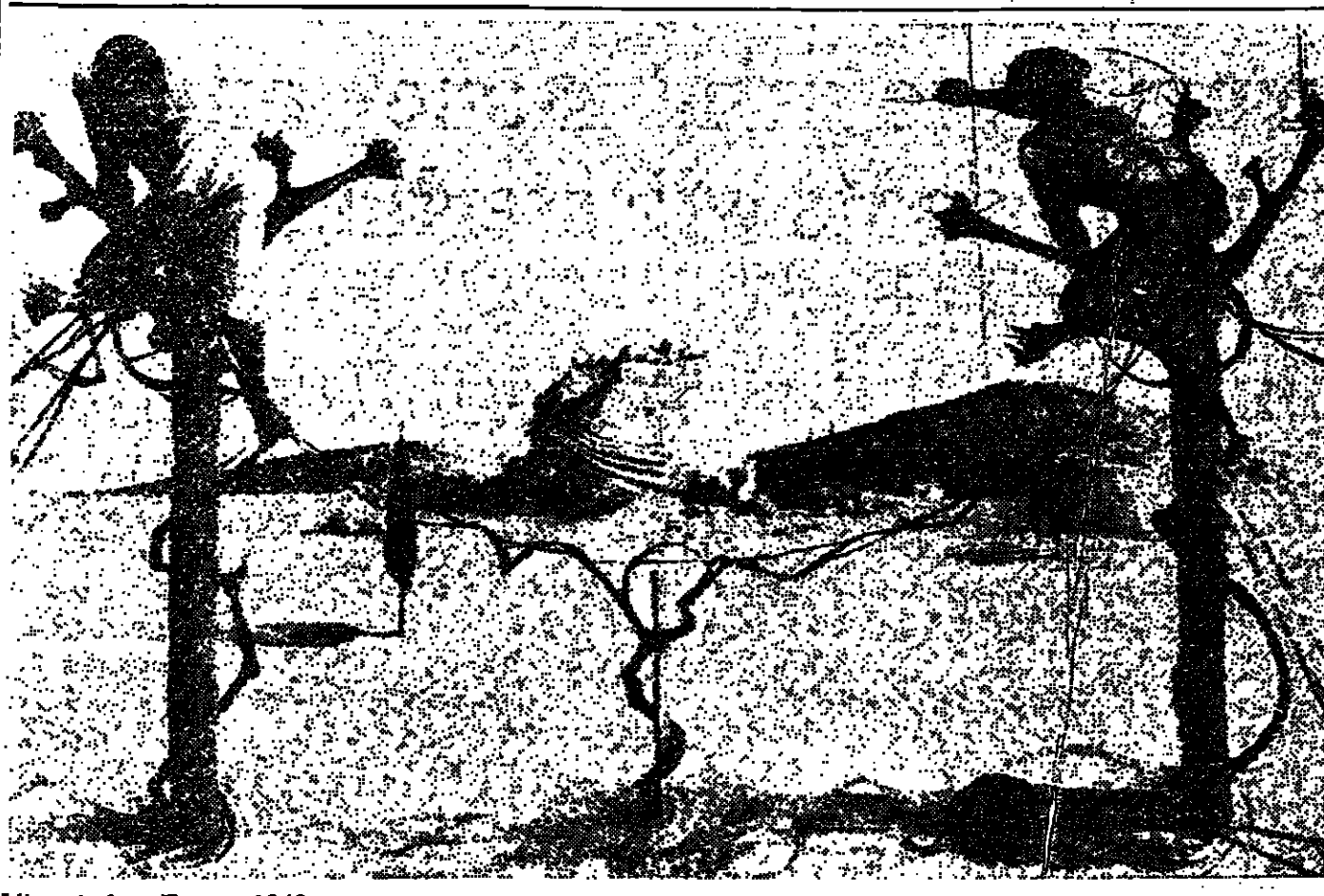
Mr Geoffrey Howe, Home Secretary, said that there were 41,500 people in prison for drug offences in 1976.

tative not
for Wales
final say

ENTERTAINMENTS

RA AND BALLET
ARDEN 020 100...
NATIONAL OPERA
CONCERTS
THEATRES
CINEMAS
EXHIBITIONS
ART GALLERIES

THE ARTS



Vines before Easter, 1949

The protean Michael Ayrton

Michael Ayrton, who seems to have tried everything and been remarkably good at most of it, is the subject of an exhibition called *The Compulsive Image*, at the City Museums and Art Gallery, Birmingham, until February 27, organized by the keeper of the Department of Art, Peter Cannon-Brookes, with the assistance of Mrs Elizabeth Ayrton, and Michael Le Marchant. Originally planned in 1973, the exhibition was considerably extended in scope as a consequence of the artist's death in November, 1975, which decided the organizers to mount a major commemorative show: the result, which has received Arts Council support, will be seen later at Sheffield (April 16 to May 15), Bradford (May 26 to June 30), Colchester (The Minories: July 17 to August 14) and Sunderland (August 27 to October 3).

Michael Ayrton was born in London in 1921, the son of Gerald Gould, poet, and a literary critic, and Barbara Ayrton, a leading Socialist politician to whom he was closely attached, and whose name he used, allegedly because, beginning with "A", it would put him near the top of the list. His closest friend in adolescence was John Minton, one of the most sensitive artists of his generation, but whose portrait by Ayrton in the exhibition, dated 1941, makes him look like an emaciated half-wit. He does not seem to have minded, however, as they both shared a joint exhibition at the Leicester Galleries late the following year, as a result of which Ayrton obtained a teaching post at the City Museum School of Art. In the early 1940s he was fascinated by those already conveying that impression of almost demonic energy externalizing an intensely experienced private obsession which characterizes so much of his output: in the early 1940s he was fascinated by the *Temperament of St Anthony*, although later he turned to landscape for inspiration. The gaunt tree forms and brilliant colours of *Entrance to a Wood* (May to June, 1945) illustrate the impact on him of Graham Sutherland, with whom he came into contact during summer holidays spent in Pembrokeshire in 1945 and 1946, while the grim winter of 1946-47 led to the sombre seascapes such as *Dark Sea and Ebb Tide*.

Ayrton had already started writing, taking over in 1946 from John Piper as art critic of *The Spectator*. In the same year he went to Italy, becoming deeply involved first of all with the life of the country-side and later with that in the poorer quarters of the cities, especially Rome: in *Vines before Easter*, from the Tuscan Vine Sequence of 1949, early Renaissance perspective is exploited in a Surrealist way to produce an effect at once powerful yet controlled, but in the Roman pictures he seems momentarily to tattle over into a sentimental coarseness, as in *The Captives* (Seven early 1950s), although the drawing, exhibited alongside, is of marvellous quality.

Changes in his personal life in the early 50s, notably his marriage to Elizabeth Balchin and the death of his mother, were paralleled in his artistic development by his decision to explore the possibilities of work in three dimensions, and in his early experiments with sculpture the advice of Henry Moore (whom he had met early in his career) was crucially important. The use of bones was a suggestion that came from Moore, but, characteristically, Ayrton went further than his mentor, using the skull of a Nile perch which he was given in 1974, as more inspiration, but as what Dr Cannon-Brookes terms a "visual metaphor", so that it becomes the figure of a man emerging from the bone. It is one of the delights of the exhibition that it is possible to compare the bone-and-wax original with the bronze and a related pencil-and-wash drawing. In the same way the image of *The Shepherd*, ultimately derived from an archaic Greek prototype, in which a

man bears a lamb on his shoulders, appears in several different media, bronze, oil on canvas and as a lithograph. The images that obsessed Ayrton for the last 20 years of his life were almost all connected with Crater, Deedalus and Icarus, the labyrinth and above all the Minotaur, a huge bronze version of which, nearly six feet high, dominates the last room of the exhibition, a splendid domed hall mainly devoted to the "reflector" sculpture which are displayed in purpose-built, open cases, that show off the reflective properties of the neutral density perspex that is their unique feature.

Ayrton clearly identified with the Minotaur, perhaps equating the disgust which this monstrous creature inspired with the critical neglect from which he suffered in his later years. *Point of Departure* (1970) poignantly epitomizes his obsession, as a crucifixion of one side of his exquisitely wrought work, only 15 inches high, crouches the Minotaur with Icarus above, and on the other the forlorn figure of the artist clutching his genitals. It is clearly far more than a metaphor, but that it is unfairly ignored is obvious from this impressive exhibition.

BBC SO/Gielan Festival Hall/Radio 3

Stanley Sadie

It is a commonplace to say that Bruckner was influenced by Schubert. But not many Bruckner performances in these times recall the composer who could produce a Little as well as a Great C major, a Trout as well as a Winterreise.

In Monday's BBC concert at the Festival Hall Michael Gielan directed a reading of the Fifth Symphony that the average listener might have described as frivolous. It was marked, first of all, by its quickish tempo; second, by the nameness and lyrical freedom of its phrasing; third, by its drama; and fourth, perhaps rather improbably, by its humour.

Mr Gielan has looked at the music of Bruckner and heard in it not anything portentous or metaphysical, but music of relaxation and charm and physical energy. He had the BBC violins playing the first movement sweetly, the most part un-enthusiastically, and rounding off their phrases with affection. In the first movement he had Bruckner's carter, John Wood, and his carter, John Wood, and he brought the movement to a brilliant, uninhibited climax.

Happily he gave us the finale, which commonly is cruelly foreshortened, in extenso, not excluding the huge fugue development, which comes to a head in a thrilling mixture of a somnolent lullaby and a contrapuntal "combing" of themes. In their development the learned cannot quite be avoided, but Mr Gielan carried off lightly the series of climaxes at the end, and the theme after theme from earlier in the symphony is added to the contrapuntal mix, had full measure of excitement, with the heavy brass doubled to adjust the balance even more than usually in their favour (and splendid, crisp brass playing, too); that it can sound grander and deeper than this is perhaps beside the point.

It is largely for his conducting of contemporary music that Mr Gielan is admired. The final of Schoenberg's *Die glückliche Hand*, which he introduced here 15 years ago. Though hurried by some moments of incoherence, this struck me as one of the most naturally and freely expressive Schoenberg performances I have heard: lyrical and shapely of line, keenly alive to the sense of textures and their dramatic implications, and rising to a rich, nobly sustained peroration in the closing scene. It made me long to see the place staged. The bottom line, however, was that he brought the movement to a brilliant, uninhibited climax.

Alfred Brendel Queen Elizabeth Hall

Max Harrison

There were only three works by Alfred Brendel in the complete series of Beethoven piano sonatas, but one was the Hammerklavier, the longest and greatest. First, however, came the No. 2, in place in which the first movement sets up some youthfully exuberant contrasts whose intensifications in the development section were vividly realized by Mr Brendel.

In the central Allegretto, which anticipates Schubert, Brendel is less sure, yet the ebb and flow of stress achieved here—chiefly a matter of dynamics—was remarkable. The finale is, again, quite different, being informed with a deft yet direct humour that Mr Brendel at some points seemed to sound like a wit. The first movement, yet unexaggerated changes of emphasis.

An important point in the Sonata Op. 31, No. 2, was the carefully set relationship between the tempos of the three movements, the last being a cause of the dashing slow pace at which the Adagio was taken. Analogous to this was Mr

Abba Albert Hall

During the past month the ungentle rain could have been forgiven for coming to believe that something called Abba is simply a device with which the editors of British tabloid newspapers boost their circulation. On Monday, with black-market tickets on sale at around 10 times their face value, this extraordinary Swedish group attempted to show exactly why they have become such a phenomenon of the pop charts (One in 10 British families is said to own their albums; in Australia, the figure is one in three).

Without question, they lived up to their reputation for efficiency. Their hits were performed with a precision and an incorrigible cheerfulness which, combined with their elaborate white-and-gold costumes and the audience's unaffected enthusiasm, made the event resemble nothing more than a space-age revival meeting.

Their better songs, like "Mamma Mia" and "Dancing Queen", "SOS" and the Eurovision winner, "Waterloo", are already pop classics. Operating in an evidently fruitful territory between Easy Listening and Hard Rock, the composers, Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvass, are the masters of what might be called "consensus pop" and have an immaculate instinct for the irresistible hook-line.

The arrangements, though, are their real secret: no one in the field can match their outstandingly imaginative deployment of pianos, synthesizers, and tuned percussion, derived from the innovations of Bjorn and Benny Andersson. Away from the hits, however, the formula can become weary, some, and during their half-hour cantata, "The Girl With Golden Hair", only the frequently felicitous arrangements for 12-piece orchestra restrained one from an extended study of the hall's architecture.

The lead singing of Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Fältskog was as relentlessly offbeat as expected, and the piano was made more than amenable for leaving the technological panoply with a measure of humour and humanity. Leading a sing-song during "Fernando" for instance, they nimbly turned the cruellest of Albert Hall Union into a fair facsimile of a Rutlin's holiday camp.

London debuts

It was mainly ensembles last week. First a trio, without any collective name, of Japanese woodwind players, Fumiko Dobson, Masaharu Yamamoto and Koji Okazaki, who were heard on, respectively, oboe, clarinet and bassoon, chiefly in divertimentos. Their performances were neat, well balanced, and their playing was of a significant interpretative latitude or demands a lot of critical comment. Typical was Francaix's Divertimento with its peppy tunes, busy yet quite understated, and just sufficiently austere, a harmony: this was a sunny, affresco piece, and rather acceptable on a bleak winter's night. A fine French composer used to produce such music by the yard, and Semler Colley's Divertimento was more of the same, decently written for the medium and less insistently energetic than Francaix's. Villalobos's Trio had more substantial ideas, a far greater diversity of sounds, with each line almost discreetly independent of the others, a dense, incantatory piece with real presence, no wonder this is not called a divertimento.

Another moderately promising group in the Marché Saxophone Quartet, whose members have deft, individual techniques but whose tones are not yet sufficiently well matched for them to achieve the rich, warm blend of which this instrument is capable. This was particularly noticeable amid the incoherent Gallic jollity of Dubois's Quartet, though a good account was given of the Quartet by Gordon Jacob, which is thoughtfully written with quite varied ideas. Robert Clarris's *Caché-Caché* was a pleasing *jeu d'esprit* and Stewart Green's *Consortium*, which had its first performance, proved inventive. Carey Blyden's *Flute Birds* a set of variations originally composed for a film of the same name, seemed little more than pleasant background music.

Still worse off in terms of repertoire was the Ondresier Ensemble, as nobody appears to have composed anything for the unpromising combination of guitar, oboe and piano. An exception was the *Andresier's Dances* by Edvard Grieg, their premiere, but these, even the one titled "Dance of the Mystical Powers" were nondescript snippets. Another first performance was the *Andresier's Dances* by Edvard Grieg, their premiere, but these, even the one titled "Dance of the Mystical Powers" were nondescript snippets. Another first performance was the *Andresier's Dances* by Edvard Grieg, their premiere, but these, even the one titled "Dance of the Mystical Powers" were nondescript snippets.

Way out in the West End

Ned Chaillet

With all the fears about a disappearing fringe in London theatre, based mainly on the loss of the ICA as a producing theatre and the temporary closure of the Open Space, it is good to be able to report that two fairly new venues seem to be thriving. Action Space is still in the process of renovating the Drill Hall in Chancery Street off Tottenham Court Road but, in addition to their daily workshops and classes, they have already managed to provide a two-month theatre festival of regular theatre productions at weekends, mainly of touring fringe groups.

This coming weekend the Action Space company are producing a multi-media spectacle of their own called *War Memoirs*. An odd, amiable piece, it comments on the manipulation of British public spirit by evoking wartime propaganda and cynicism.

Beginning in the Drill Hall café to the sound of wartime piano music, the play moves into the smaller of the two theatres. Fully consumed at the end of the first act, the audience is taken into the darkened space by torch-light where a blitz of recordings and actions are intended to re-create the fear and reassurance of an air-raid shelter.

"Amid the darkness, the railing of guns, the falling of bombs, slide-shows of aerial combat and pictures of plummeting parachutists who send the crash into the room, there are human vignettes, black-market conversations, and the women left behind."

The electronic assault is leavened by the reassuring presence of a prostitute and a spy, who cheerfully involve the audience in disquisitions, and the play is the most audience is involved in a post-war sea cruise. A dreadful manipulative game, reminiscent of television game shows, brings the audience yet closer together and the final message, since the play is a way fringe theatre, has seldom been of late. Its brevity, and the compression of its images without explanation, may be faked, but it is a welcome sign of life.

At the Rock Garden in Covent Garden another new venue has set itself an ambitious "lunchtime programme". The newest production is *Mahagonny*, staged with assistance from the Goethe Institute. This short "song-play", which formed the basis of the Brecht and Weill opera *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, consists of five songs and a finale, and since exactly what happened on stage in the 1927 premiere is forgotten, all the stage action is the invention of the director, Paul Marcus.

Paul Marcus gives us an illusion, a conjurer who sets the stage with magic tricks and

The Times Special Reports.

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter.

English National Opera
Tonight at 8.00
Der Rosenkavalier
Der Rosenkavalier
Der Rosenkavalier

Ashes

Ansapacher, New York

Clive Barnes

The play *Ashes*, by the British writer David Rudkin, which opened officially this week at the Ansapacher Theatre of the New York Shakespeare Festival's public theatre complex, is probably the most important play that has seen quite a few decent plays. This year nearly all of them have come from Britain.

Ashes is a play about despair, loss and Northern Ireland. It is a political play that uses the metaphor of sterility as a symbol of a nation that is losing its heart. The play, despite what it does or does not mean, is fascinating. A man, a sometime homosexual who seeks now and again to still function in that field, wants a child.

On the surface, the play is a tragic-comedy about two people trying to have a baby, despite the patronizing scorn of gynae-

Ashes

Ansapacher, New York

Clive Barnes

The cast is awfully good. Brian Murray as the battered hero, has a humour and dignity that is superb, and Robert Maxwell playing his wife, weighing on her phrases with a wary despair, is equally beautiful. John Thillinger, in a range of noble Nemesis roles, has a lovely offbeat effectiveness, and, combining the quiet, Fiedelike Allen shines decently as a bureaucratic woman associated.

The cast is awfully good. Brian Murray as the battered hero, has a humour and dignity that is superb, and Robert Maxwell playing his wife, weighing on her phrases with a wary despair, is equally beautiful. John Thillinger, in a range of noble Nemesis roles, has a lovely offbeat effectiveness, and, combining the quiet, Fiedelike Allen shines decently as a bureaucratic woman associated.

a Special Report

RUNCORN

Ancient name lives on

The relationships between an elected local authority upon whose territory a new town is grafted, and the appointed development corporation, are nearly always delicate and in some cases have been known to become abrasive.

In the case of Runcorn it is claimed by officials of both bodies that the relationship may have at times been delicate, that there have naturally been points of conflict, but that there has never been serious friction.

In a somewhat unexpected way the association now may have been helped by local government reorganization taking place just 10 years after the designation of the new town area.

Until 1974 the elected local authority was the Runcorn District Council of Cheshire, a fairly small organisation which had had to grapple with many social problems associated with an old industrial area.

There was undoubtedly some feeling in the early stages of the new town construction, particularly when residents of the old, rather run-down Runcorn saw the sheer size and value of the resources being poured into the green fields overlooking them. That feeling still persists to some extent, as it must in all the second generation new towns which have been grafted on to existing communities.

Runcorn was the first of these and both the advantages and disadvantages of the policy have now been recognized.

From the start, however, both the elected council and development corporation did their best to resolve differences by sitting round a table and talking about them. In the early 1970s the position of the elected authority took on a new dimension when plans were announced for the Cheshire county boundary to be extended north of the Mersey to include Widnes and Warrington. This was done under the reorganisation scheme to compensate Cheshire for the loss to the new Greater Manchester county of some of its highest rate yield territories around the southern fringes of Manchester city.

A new district authority was created, spanning the Mersey and due to administer the twin towns of Widnes and Runcorn which

historically had regarded one another in a sense of friendly rivalry across a county boundary and a thousand feet of water.

The new authority was given the name of Halton after an ancient ecclesiastical district. A number of new senior officers took over the reins including Mr Ronald Turton, the chief executive, who by coincidence had once been a member of the new town development corporation's planning staff.

Halton, and the former Runcorn district councils, have always been responsible for certain functions within the new town including cleansing and refuse services and the administration of some of the smaller open spaces and playing fields.

Cheshire County, as the education and highways authority, has been responsible for schools and adopted roads.

Under various changes and amendments to the new town legislation a commission will retain some say in the administration of Runcorn, even after the new town has reached maturity about 1981 and the development corporation has folded its tents (or to be more accurate demolished its prefabricated offices) and stolen away.

The biggest change on maturity will be the taking over by Halton District Council of responsibility for housing and all related assets. The local authority will also take over community centres and most of the local shopping centres, although Shopping City and the industrial sites will be administered by the commission.

Taking over the new town housing will make Halton one of the biggest shire county district landlords in the country, owning something like 23,000 dwellings.

This may present certain political problems in the long-term future since more than half the population will be living in council property. Halton will also rate about sixth in a national league table in terms of total population in a shire county district.

In the next three or four critical years liaison between the elected authority and the development corporation will obviously have to be even closer as the former takes

over more responsibility, and it is perhaps fortunate that there is unlikely to be any political change in the Labour control of Halton council.

Already regular meetings take place between officers of the two organisations and quarterly meetings are held when officers from all departments explain technical aspects to the elected councillors.

Halton council officials are particularly anxious that everything possible should be done to prevent any feeling of inferiority among the residents on the former Widnes side of the river and among those of Runcorn old town.

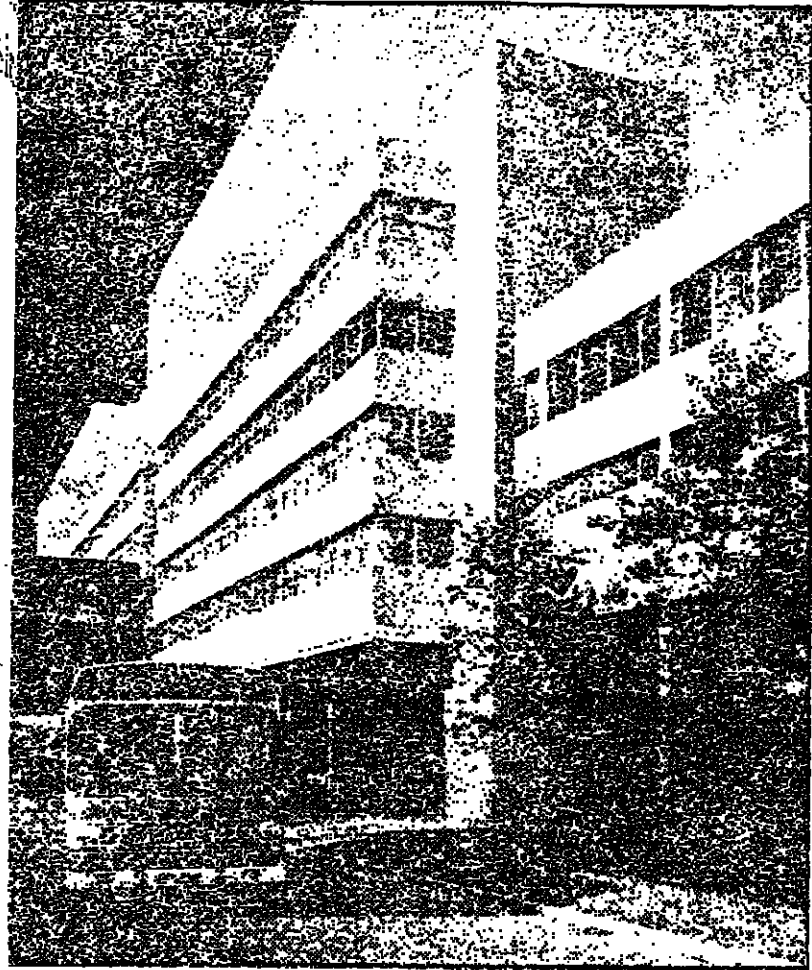
This is not easy because both areas suffer from the after effects of concentrated heavy industry established in the pre-conservation era, from derelict land and old housing stock. On the Widnes side there is a serious shortage of attractive shopping facilities and curious eyes are naturally cast across the Mersey towards Shopping City and the other expensive features of the new town.

Another aspect of local government reorganisation has had less happy results. There is considerable feeling in the new Merseyside Metropolitan Council that it was unfair to exclude from it all the main growth points of the natural, geographical, sub-region of Merseyside, Runcorn New Town, Ellesmere Port, and Skelmersdale New Town all lie outside the Merseyside county boundaries.

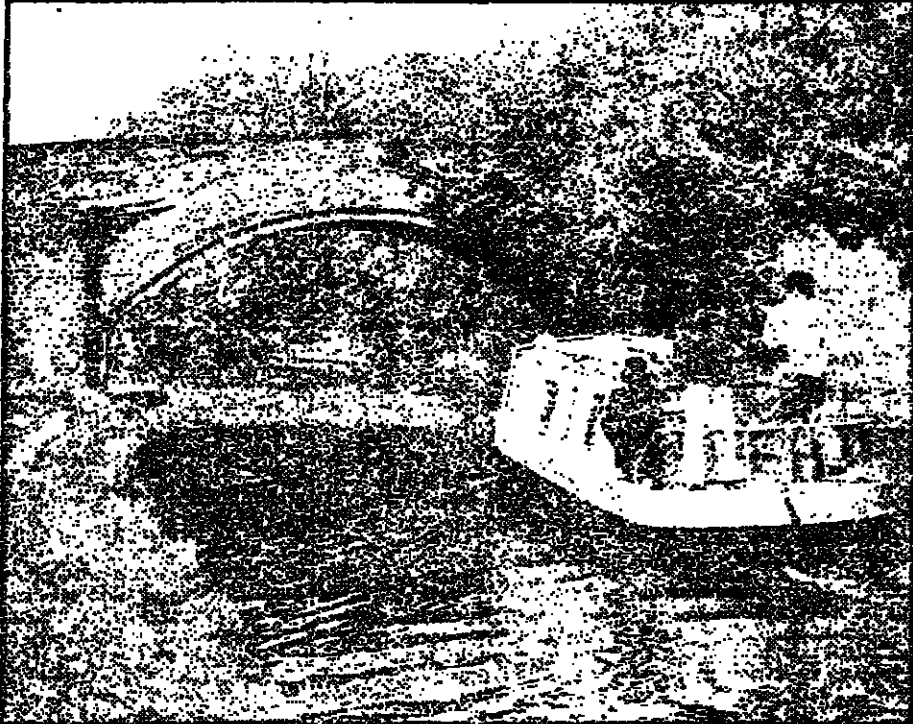
One of the most outspoken critics of this aspect of the 1974 local government reorganisation is Mr William Selton, chairman of Merseyside County Council, chairman of the North West Economic Planning Council, and chairman of Runcorn New Town Development Corporation.

This viewpoint in no way reduces Mr Selton's personal pride in Runcorn, however. He never loses an opportunity to promote its interests but, one always feels, he would have liked it to have been placed within his own county's boundaries.

J. C.



Office above the bus station at Shopping City. Right: the Bridgewater Canal, which has been developed as an amenity for the town.



Grafting new on to old gives a flying start

Chartres

times competitive new-town planning Runcorn can claim to a number of years.

The first new town to be grafted on to a community and design was probably one of the most dramatic and successful when it was more than 20 years its most important feature, however, that its development "on target" very respect. That, in construction 1960s and 1970s, to mean achievement.

Objectives of 12,500 to be occupied or sold or letting by a population of 10 are not met it is the fault of the corporation or else directly caused by the cuts now in public expenditure not yet certain

what contracts, if any, can be let this year. Nevertheless nearly 10,000 dwellings have been built or are under contract and 9,000 new jobs have been created in the economically deprived geographical area of Merseyside.

The new town on the south bank of the Mersey estuary is due to become "mature" in about two years' time and the present indications are that the development corporation, commissioned in April, 1964, will be able to hand over its task to the permanent administrators in 1981, having thereby created a town in a space of 17 years.

While no one in Runcorn rejoices at anyone else's problems, its success, compared say with the vicissitudes now being encountered at Skelmersdale near by, has been remarkable.

Targets for both housing and employment have been met year after year, the original master plan drawn up by Professor Arthur Ling, former head of Nottingham University architecture department, has been adhered

to closely, apart from two considered amendments, one agreed to in 1973, the other in July last year.

Both those amendments were dictated by a recognition that forecasts of population growth were not being substantiated by events, and that the average occupancy rate per household was turning out to be lower than estimated—that is with smaller families becoming the trend, rather more houses would be needed for the same number of people.

A further assessment of future trends also showed that there would be a need for house building to go on, albeit at a much reduced rate, after "maturity year, 1979", in order to accommodate second generation families.

In 1973 therefore the original housing target of 12,000 dwellings (9,000 for rent and 3,000 for sale) was amended to 12,500 (10,500 for rent and 2,000 for sale). In the second amendment proposals it was made clear that there would be no need to extend the original design

ated area but that additional reserve land for houses could be found by re-shuffling allocations without damaging the original concept of a balanced mixture of housing, industry, shops and services, and open spaces.

The advantages and disadvantages of grafting a new town on to an existing community instead of following the earlier green field policy are now clearly identified, and largely as a result of the Runcorn experience.

In Runcorn's own case the advantage will probably prove to have tipped the scales in the end because it has now been fairly clearly demonstrated that "grafting" gives a flying start to the essential process of attracting new industry. Runcorn in the 1950s might not have been a familiar place on the map to every secretary in a London business house, but it was well known in northern industrial circles and its road, rail, air, and particularly its sea communications had already been well developed, although to

nothing like the same extent as they are now.

Although there have been inevitable disappointments, the influx of industry has been remarkably steady with a particularly healthy proportion of widely diversified small units making for an overall stability of employment. Regrettably the unemployment rate among residents remains higher than anyone would like but that is more a reflection of national problems in general, and Merseyside problems in particular, than of anything having gone badly wrong with the new town plan.

The disadvantages have been mainly felt by the residents of the "old town" of Runcorn which, as a medium-sized centre of mixed industry (originally based on the leather trade) and with a population of fewer than 30,000, was not well endowed with houses, shops, schools or general amenities.

Inevitably there was a sense of resentment at first, perhaps heightened by suspicion of incoming Liverpoolians with their general reputation for a certain brash-

ness of life-style. The resentment still shows itself occasionally although all concerned hope that phase is nearly over. There are indeed signs now of integration not only between old and new Runcorn but also between dwellers on the opposite banks of the Mersey who have been brought together under the new Halton local authority.

The early concept of new towns being almost self-contained with everyone living and working within their clearly defined boundaries has, perhaps happily, never really materialized in Britain and there is probably more two-way traffic of people living in Runcorn going to work outside and vice versa, than was first envisaged. Development corporation officials do not regard this as unhealthy. Indeed to some extent it was planned for, the big car plants at Ellesmere Port and across the water at Halewood always having been regarded as important employment sources for new Runcornians.

continued on next page

RUNCORN

a good home
for your money

Since the first factory was opened in Runcorn in 1967 over £50,000,000 of private capital has been invested in industrial, commercial and residential projects; proof enough of the private sector's confidence in the future growth of the New Town.

Runcorn Development Corporation
Chapel Street, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 5AR
Telephone Runcorn 73477

The Local attraction.



RUNCORN
GROSVENOR HOUSE
MODERN OFFICES
sq. 21,000 ft.
UNITS FROM 600 sq. ft.
TO LET

Letting Agents:

Edward Erdman

10 GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W1A 0AB (W1A 0AB)

Dunlop Heywood & Co

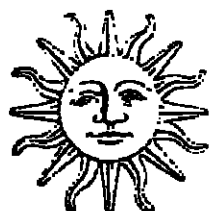
W. J. WILSON

10 GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W1A 0AB (W1A 0AB)

**Shopping City,
5 years old.**



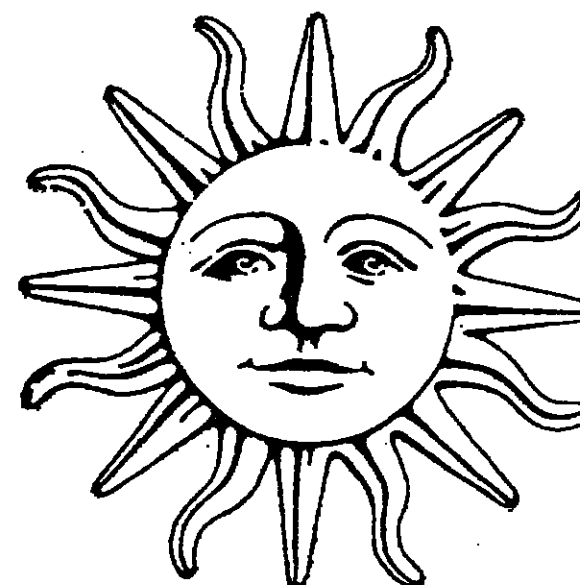
Best typified by one of the many lounges inside the centre popular with shoppers for relaxing in. Sun Life Assurance is proud to have financed this vital feature of Runcorn New Town.



SUN LIFE ASSURANCE

Sun Life Assurance Society Limited, Chief Office:
107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU.

**Sun Life,
5 years on.**



**1971 New premium
income...£27 millions.
1976 New premium
income...£53 millions.**

Figures indicate facts. Although in business for over 160 years, Sun Life is an assurance company that keeps pace with developments like Runcorn, and whose outlook and methods are as modern as tomorrow. No wonder more and more people are selecting Sun Life for their life assurance.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE

Sun Life Assurance Society Limited, Chief Office:
107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU.



The Bass Charrington brewery at Whitehouse.

Industry a success story despite setbacks

by R. W. Shakespeare

In industrial terms and, more especially, in its regional context Runcorn New Town is an undoubted success story. Over the past decade since its industrial development programme began it has suffered disappointments and setbacks. But none has had the paralyzing impact of the disasters that have beset its near neighbour across the Lancashire border at Skelmersdale.

On the face of things—and the face of this particular stretch of the Mersey holt can never claim to have been a pretty one—it is difficult to see why Runcorn has taken on such a favourable image with industrialists, while the other Merseyside-oriented new town has plunged into a depression from which it may be lucky to recover in another decade, if at all.

It may have something to do with the fact that Skelmersdale was almost built from green fields, while Runcorn had a well-established industrial base in the old town's long-standing links with ICI's Mond Division which is still a major and expanding element in the town's economic strength.

The explanation may also lie in a fundamentally different approach to housing policies. Runcorn insisted from the outset on a high degree of selectivity, through

which it has achieved a much more balanced community structure. The Skelmersdale authorities became committed to taking more or less what they were sent as a result of the City of Liverpool's rehousing programme. Or, perhaps, in the final analysis it may be seen that personality has played a more than usually crucial role and that Runcorn has been both wise and fortunate in its choice of general manager of its development corporation. Mr Derrick Ranwell is a chief executive whose outstanding ability is widely recognized, not least among the members of his own staff.

Whatever the explanations the results are clear and point to Runcorn having achieved a degree of industrial development and diversification that puts it in an enviable position compared not only with its new town rival but with much of the North-west region as a whole. At present, for instance, it has an unemployment rate below the regional average and significantly below the general level for Merseyside; while Skelmersdale is one of the country's unemployment black spots with a jobless total approaching 25 per cent.

Leaving aside the huge ICI complex, which is just outside the new town's designated area but is, nevertheless, an integral part of its economic and job creation from the outset on a high degree of selectivity, through

been focused primarily on two large estates, Astmoor and Whitehouse, with some smaller growth areas elsewhere.

With nearly 70 new firms having moved in and the job creation total approaching 9,000, Runcorn can claim to have added one job for each new household, although it still has some way to go towards its eventual target of 14,000 jobs by the time the best population level of 70,000 is reached in 1979.

What is encouraging to the development corporation planners is the sensible mix of manufacturing and service activities achieved; all the more remarkable because Runcorn has never really become involved in a hard sell exercise over its industrial build-up. Rather, it has been content to let the case build up and without frills in what it judged to be the right quarters.

The response has been gratifying. The two main estates are geared to quite different functions. Whitehouse has been zoned for large-scale industrial projects involving primarily purpose-built plants. It is there that Bass Charrington has put down its £30m brewery complex on a 100-acre site and Guinness has new keeling plant. Nearby is the huge and still expanding operation of YKK Fasteners, manufacturers of zip fasteners and the only wholly Japanese-owned company in Britain. There are also two good examples of standardised Food Products in manufacturing, and Cearus and Brown in grocery distribution.

A major disappointment has been that Schreiber, the furniture firm, built almost to a complete stage, the 400,000 sq ft factory on a four-acre site (designed, like every other industrial building in Runcorn, to development corporation standards and appearance specifications) then decided not to go ahead and occupy it. The development corporation eventually bought it in, from the contractor, at a "knock down" price that represented the actual outlay and it now lies empty.

Factory linked to special transport system

But Runcorn's industrial development officials are not altogether dismayed. They see the huge factory as a potential advantage as soon as investment confidence increases. They want to see the factory go as a single unit—rather than sub-dividing it—and they can justify claim that when a major industrial user comes along it will put him 18 months ahead of any similar "green fields" investment decision. The Astmoor Industrial Estate is the more interesting of Runcorn's industrial developments since it represents not only the diversifying element in the overall strategy, but an attractive example of industrial design and landscaping, linked to a special transport system.

Astmoor now houses some 60 firms, extending from the manufacture of cocktail biscuits to steel fabrication, accommodated in award-winning design factories which are largely the result of one of the most concentrated advance factory building programmes in the country.

The units extend in size from standard 12,800 sq ft, through double nursery at 5,400 sq ft to nursery at 3,200 sq ft—all with appropriate yard space and some land options for expansion. The factory buildings have a standard single-storey profile and are also built with standard external finish in colour and materials.

The estate is served by Runcorn's magnificent double road system, the expressway and the busway. It is small wonder that Runcorn has been able to lease its factory units almost as fast as it could build them and that, once occupied, few firms have moved out. The new town's real problem in industry, which it shares with most of the region, is to find major investors ready to put down their own purpose-built plants. But all in all Runcorn looks to its industrial future with quiet confidence.

The author is Northern Industrial Correspondent, The Times.

Place where people are priority

In any conversation with officials of the Runcorn New Town Development Corporation one point never fails to emerge and be given particular emphasis. It is that the primary and dominant function of the new town is to provide homes.

This is not to suggest that Runcorn in any sense regards itself as a overspill area. Indeed it is at some pains to demonstrate that that is just what it is not. Rather it has, from the outset, been a question of acknowledging that while other things—industry, shops, services and all amenities—are vital, they are the necessary elements in the total concept of creating a place where people live.

Runcorn's planning, its programming of its development, and its buildings reflect that basic philosophy. It is an environment created for people, not an experiment in fitting people into an environment; although many of those who have moved there it does represent a fairly sharp change in environment.

There are no high rise flats in Runcorn, an agreeable surprise when one recalls that the new town was launched in 1964 when tower blocks were proliferating throughout the land. Mr R. L. E. Harrison, the development corporation's chief architect and planning officer, says: "I think we were perhaps fortunate in being able to learn from other people's mistakes, although I think high rise flats are appropriate in some situations."

At the same time I don't think we would ever have seriously considered high rise for Runcorn. We have flats, of course, but they are a maximum of four or five storeys and we have been able to state able to sit the landscape here to provide easy access at various levels.

One of the factors that saved Runcorn from high rise flats, and indeed from tower blocks of any kind, was the basic architectural and planning concept of making the sandstone outcrop of Halton Rock and the ruin of Halton Castle the benchmarks for the new town's landscaping. No building that would obscure this view has been permitted and the colours and textures used either blend or complement the distant landscape.

It would be hard to claim that Runcorn ever will be a pretty place in the conventional sense. In visual terms, it is a place that does not offend, tries hard to please and occasionally springs a surprise. Mostly it strives to be a place where people can quickly come to feel a sense of belonging and of relevance. And in this it

seems to be succeeding to a much greater extent than some of the more glamorous and more widely acclaimed ventures.

The flats are just one feature of housing development which ring the Shopping City and town centre area. There are nine housing estates with properties for rent and one on which all properties are privately owned. This is Boeckwood, built by Whelmar, which included a new community centre in its plan.

The housing development has been carried out in a clockwise sequence around the town park. The park itself—partly landscaped and partly natural—provides for a wide range of recreational activities, including a long countryside walk of which the towpath of the Bridgewater Canal forms a section.

The canal itself now houses a marina for 350 craft, opened up at Preston Brook and there Whelmar is carrying out another small, but attractive development of private housing designed with the boating enthusiast in mind. Within the park, too, there is an artificial ski slope and Norton Recreation Centre with its swimming pool, sports hall, and a courts and social area.

The housing estates, built by both traditional and industrialised methods, cater for every size of family and provide a wide variety of choice from bungalows and town houses, single bedroom apartments to larger detached properties. Each residential area is planned to have social and shopping facilities within easy walking distance and all are linked by both the expressway and the busway to Shopping City and the other town centre amenities and services.

One of the newest developments at Southgate, which features some of Runcorn's striking architecture, with the use of plastic materials and primary colours in the construction of somewhat cubist blocks, is close enough to Shopping City to be linked to it by a covered and traffic-free walk.

Elsewhere the interest lies more in the layout and contours of the housing developments. The range of colours has been deliberately restricted to the emphasis is on blending and natural tones. Any dullness that might be expected to result from this formula is more than compensated for by extensive and imaginative landscaping, including tree planting on a large scale.

There are subtle but clear changes of mood as one moves from one housing area to another, the dominant feeling throughout being that of far greater space than one usually finds on estates of this kind.

Grafting new on to old

continued from page 1

The housing, some of which is highly unconventional in design, now caters for almost all the income groups likely to be associated with the move of a factory on to one of the industrial estates. The quality of the countryside in Cheshire, the south of the town often provides a pleasant surprise to executives and key workers who perhaps feared the worst when a move from the south of England was first contemplated.

The original master plan envisaged a series of communities built roughly in a circle around a central town park with two figure-of-eight communication systems, one exclusively reserved for buses, the other for normal road traffic with pedestrians and cyclists having their own paths.

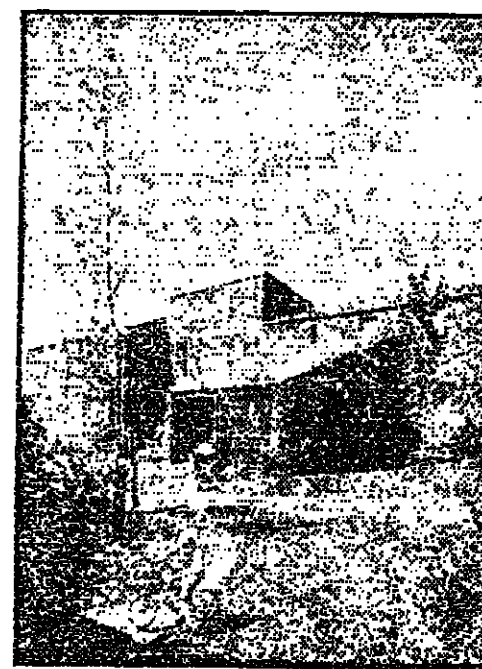
The layout and the special attention paid to segregated traffic, as well as the creation of Shopping City, have had the effect of creating a remarkably quiet town. Some residents and visitors find the absence of bustle disconcerting, at least at first, but usually soon grow to appreciate the absence of traffic noise and smells and accept that one cannot have the best of both worlds.

In 1973 the development corporation reviewed progress and among the facts which emerged was that the average occupancy rates per household in the new dwellings was nearer to 3.1 per cent than the 3.5 estimated.

Because of lower housing densities, safety limits, and so on, it was also proving impossible to build as many houses within the planned communities as had been envisaged in the master plan, and there were also indications that the population of Merseyside was not growing.

On the other hand the fact that the population was not growing in terms of numbers did not lessen the overall demand for new housing on Merseyside because of smaller family sizes and the migration of many of the older buildings. Statistics show that about 40 per cent of the newcomers come from multi-occupied tenancies.

The development corporation therefore concluded in 1973 that the rate of house building had been sufficient to achieve the 1979 target and it appeared that it would be possible to increase the rented house programme without cutting back on the completion dates. Taking all the factors into account it was decided to increase the 1979 rented dwellings target from 9,000 to 10,500.



Housing in the first phase of the Palace development which was commenced in the RUT area in 1974.

Statistically, Runcorn's achievement in housing is impressive in itself—a total so far of well over 8,000 houses for rent and more than 1,600 by private development for sale, with nearly 2,000 more in both categories under construction and as many again under contract but not yet started.

In industrial building, Runcorn has happily followed the maxim that since factories can seldom be expected to have a great deal of eye appeal, the less they are seen the better for everyone. Hence the industrial estate at Astmoor has been planned as a series of single-storey units, of uniform external finish, again in a well-landscaped setting. Hoardings

and large signs are avoided. Factory units identified by name plates. A good and largely concentric perimeter area.

On the second trial estate, where are purpose built concerns, there is strict control over and visual factors are areas, as possible, screened from the side of a factory and landscaped. Indeed that it is an obligatory to assist with money.

RUNCORN DOCK
a part of the
Runcorn success story

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL COMB

PERCIVAL LANE, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE

WA7 4XD. (Tel: 0928575331/8)

COMMERCIAL and INDUSTRIAL PROPER

in WIDNES, RUNCORN and MERSEYSID

Development Land 1 acre to 26 ab

Warehouses/Factories 870 to 38,600

ft. Shops and Offices town centre

suburbs.

DIXON HENDERSON

and Company

32 Widnes Road, Widnes, 051-423 1237.

also at Liverpool and St. Helens and in association

with

YATES & CO., 21 Shopping City, Runcorn.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Manchester Business School Management C

"probably the finest short course in the world"

THE FINANCIAL TIMES

Apply now to: SEPTEMBER 77 Course

at: 21 Shopping City, Runcorn, Cheshire

Manchester M10 0PB. Tel: 061-273 822

Parcar

operate all the multi-storey

car parking in

RUNCORN SHOPPING CITY

Parcar Operations Ltd.

15 Phillimore Walk

London W8 7SA

Telephone

Runcorn 63

01-837 585

**Main Contractors
for Runcorn
Shopping Centre
LAING**

BUILDING TOMORROW, TODAY

John Laing Construction Limited
Page Street, Mill Hill, London NW7 2ER
Telephone: 01-959 3636

RUNCORN SHOPPING CITY
World of Shopping Un

ESTATE COMMER

28 GROSVENOR

LONDON

Om city within a town act of faith

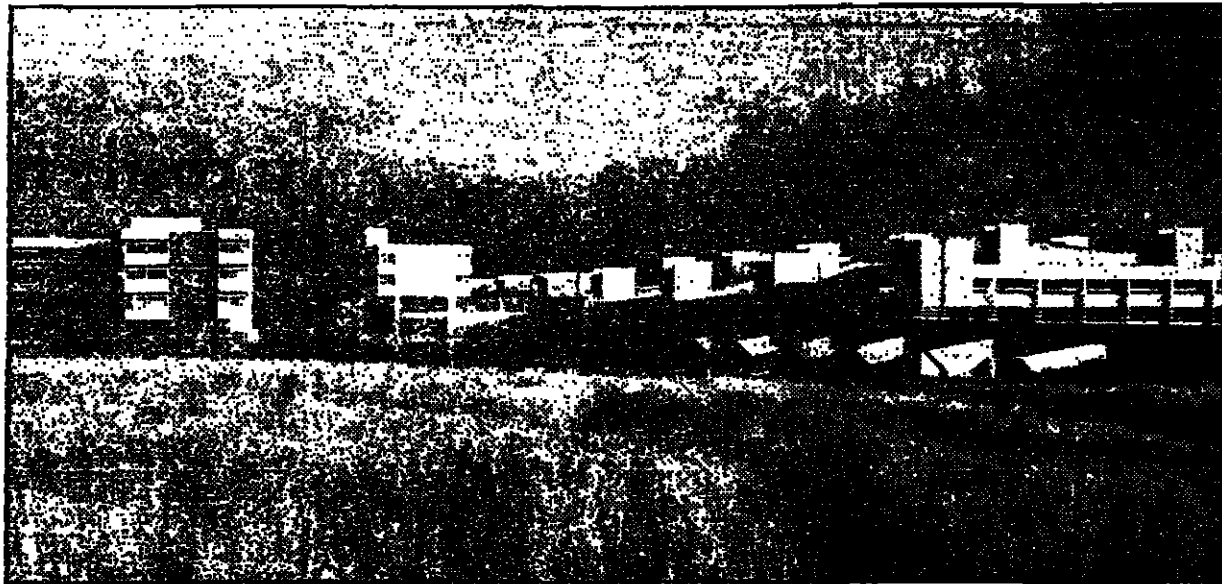
and a bend, or top sq ft (excluding car parking of a rise on either of 2,400 vehicles) which expressway or the itself includes a lottable area and at first sight it of 590,000 sq ft.

Grosvenor Estates manages the entire Shopping City area, with its management team and staff operating from the adjacent Grosvenor House office block which it has also built for commercial letting. All trading premises, from the smallest 20 sq ft kiosk to the largest—78,000 sq ft complex occupied by Tesco—are leased, some on contracts geared to turnover. More than 100 separate units are let to a comprehensive range of shops.

Five major banks and two building societies have moved in and there are two pubs, restaurants, cafes and a bingo hall. There is a cinema but no theatre or live entertainment of any kind.

The Shopping City, officially opened by the Queen in May, 1972, has been designed to achieve complete segregation of pedestrians and traffic. It is served by Runcorn's two figure of eight highways—the expressway giving access to the car parks and the busway running into a bus station complex which lies between the shopping and commercial development areas.

Buses serving all housing developments throughout the town run at six-minute intervals and car parking is fairly



Shopping City from the west: still much to do.

cheap. Once having left the bus, or parked, the shopper is cosseted in what is described as "an air conditioned and controlled shopping environment". Among other things a single major district heating scheme provides for the shopping area, offices and the Southgate residential estate near by, where residents are within traffic-free walking distance of the Shopping City.

But does it work? The town's earliest residents will, albeit unreasonably, look for all shops and services from the start. But most things will not pay until there are enough customers bringing regular trade.

Grosvenor's experience elsewhere—which included the shopping area grafted into the ancient central area of Chester—suggested that Runcorn's Shopping City could be made to attract business from a much wider area than the new town itself. Its catchment area could, because of excellent road communications, include a good deal of the Mersey belt—Warrington, Widnes, St Helens, Wigan.

The main aim of the development, from the outset, had to be to provide sufficient attraction to prevent new Runcorn residents from forming shopping habits that involved travelling farther afield—or back to the familiar areas from which they had come—and

to start to pull in trade from the larger catchment area.

It has not been an easy task and indeed the struggle to make Shopping City an unqualified success is still an uphill one. But positive action is being taken.

By the spring of 1975 it was—as Grosvenor Estates readily admits—becoming increasingly clear that all was far from well with the Shopping City. A number of tenants were running into financial difficulties, the car park usage dropped by about 40 per cent compared with the previous year, pedestrian counts showed the same trend and, all in all, the project was getting some hostile publicity.

Grosvenor decided to embark on something that is rare in retailing in the United Kingdom—"the joint, continuous and comprehensive promotion of a multi-tenanted shopping centre" as the company puts it. In other words it set out to "sell" Shopping City, rather than the individual trades and services provided by it.

To do this it recruited a Manchester-based advertising and public relations company, Barnaby and Tarr, which carried out first a spot survey then a much more detailed and extensive market survey. These formed the basis first for some physical changes, such as method of payment at the car parks and new plans and direction signs within the shopping

YKK
world famous
zip fasteners are
made in
**Runcorn
cheshire**



**YKK FASTENERS
(UK) LTD**

Sophia House,
76/80 City Road, London EC1Y 8QX.
Telephone: 01-253 2077

Factory:
340 Whitehouse Industrial Estate,
Runcorn, Cheshire

Modern Factory
Approx. 26,000 sq.ft.

Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn.

For Sale
or
To Let

JONES LANG WOOTTON
Chartered Surveyors
33 King Street,
London EC2V 8EE.
Tel: 01-606 4060.
Telex: 885557.

**TOUR IN LUXURY WITH
SELWYN'S OF RUNCORN**

British & Continental Tour Specialists
for Private Parties
Also contract work undertaken
12, 29, 45 and 53 seater coaches available

RUNCORN 64515
Service Industrial Estate,
Plover Farm Road, Runcorn

WIDNES

INDUSTRY

The New St. Michael's Industrial Estate offers a wide range of fully serviced sites. Government Advance Factories also available shortly. Full S.D.A. incentives apply.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
contact Phil Bostock
051-424 2061
Ext. 342

RETAILING

A key town centre site is available in Widnes for up to 80,000 sq. ft. gross of retailing space plus car parking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
contact Alan Wenham
051-424 2061
Ext. 302

Happy in the absence of vandals

by Kate Hutchin

Vandalism is generally accepted today as a symptom of grave dissatisfaction among the citizenry, particularly among the younger age group. If that is so then Runcorn New Town, populated largely by former Liverpoolians, is socially a happy, contented place.

It suffers from a negligible amount of vandalism, though in Widnes, just a stone's throw across the Mersey, which has overspill estates full of young Liverpudlians, vandalism is a big problem.

Mr Ron Turtun, chief executive of the new Halton Borough Council, which since local government re-organisation has included Runcorn, old and new, the old borough of Widnes, and a slice of what was formerly the Whiston Rural District Council, admits to being mystified by this situation. He thinks it may be largely because tenants in Runcorn are carefully vetted before being given tenancies. In Widnes they are not.

Though vetting cannot be the only reason for Runcorn's happy state of affairs, it has certainly played its part. The aim of the social development officer, whose 30-strong department left no stone unturned in their determination to make newcomers feel at home. That was not an easy task when the first arrivals had to come to terms with a town in the making, in which schools, churches, community centres and other amenities had not yet materialized and a lot had to be taken on trust.

Miss Collins retired, with a well-earned OBE, two years ago, but Mr James Trewent, her successor, carries on her enlightened policy. People like to go to the social development office on the edge of Shopping City, where, in a room rather like a modern hotel lounge, with soft music playing in the background, they are treated with unfailing courtesy by everyone from the receptionists to the senior staff.

Many of the staff live in the new town, so are seconded to the town, so that patients get more than average atten-

tion. Church of England and nonconformist ministers have a team ministry, which works in close consultation with the Roman Catholic priests, so that the spiritual needs of the community are adequately met.

To get a tenant's view of the new town I spoke to Mrs Betty Gardler who, though only 40, may be said to be one of the new town's oldest inhabitants—she was the third person to move into the Halton Brook estate nearly 10 years ago.

"It was a little bit awkward at first," she said, "with the shops a long way away and few of the amenities we now enjoy. But we settled down I say our three children. We weren't the kind of family that went out a lot, so we didn't notice the lack of entertainment. It must have been hard on couples who like a lot of social life."

My daughter, who is nearly 19, didn't like it because she missed all her Liverpool friends, but she is married now and happily living in one of the decade flats. My husband and I liked it so much that four years ago we bought this house in Palace Fields, though my husband, whose firm in Runcorn was taken over, now works in Warrington.

Mrs Gardler herself works in Shopping City as a part-time assistant for Manweb. She finds it an excellent shopping centre—"but why didn't they put some windows in so that you could look out? When you work there it's the same all the year round, you have no idea of what the weather's like outside."

She does not use the unique multi-million pound rapid-transit bus service, which circles the town in a figure-of-eight. "I walk to work and my children walk to school—the bus is too expensive for us to use it regularly."

Mrs Barbara Shaw, aged 33, who lives in Halton Brook with her husband and six children, also finds the buses too expensive. "With six children it is cheaper to go in my husband's car."

The Shaws also came to Runcorn nearly 10 years ago, and still rent their house, though Mrs Shaw would like one day to buy a house there. "But on the outside," she says, "it is expensive and time-consuming to visit relatives who still live there, she has few complaints about life in Runcorn and agrees that it is much better for the children. She would not really like to go back, even though her husband, whose job on the Astmoor industrial estate became redundant, now works in Liverpool.

Her biggest grievance is

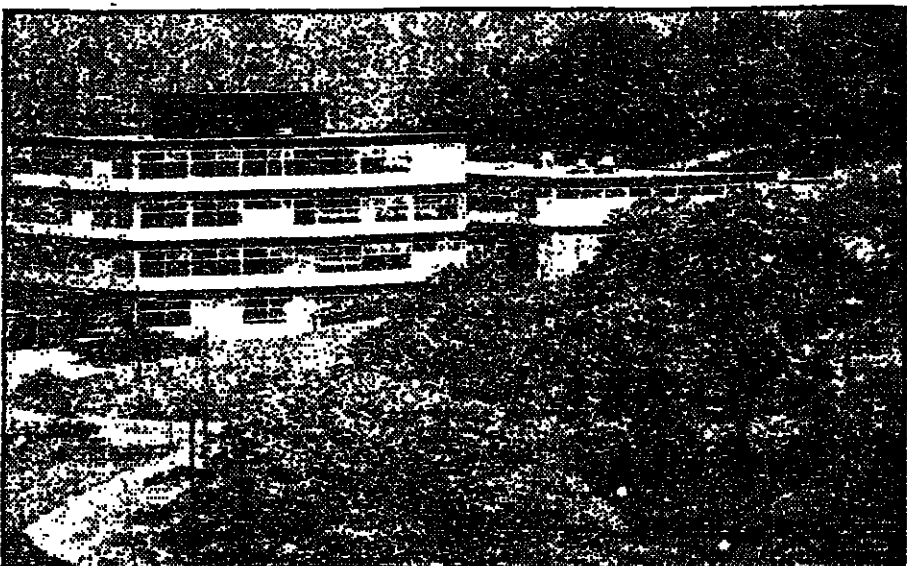
Three years needed to settle down

"There is what we call the honeymoon period of about nine months or a year, during which the novelty of a new house, new surroundings, Shopping City and so on excites and delights them. Then comes the problem period. They miss their relatives and friends in Liverpool, they feel lonely, they miss the pattern of urban life they were used to because they all regard coming to Runcorn as 'coming to live in the country'."

This lasts perhaps for another year. In the third year they take root. "Of course they have problems and the economic situation does not help. Quite often we are housing young people who have never lived on their own before, who are not very mature, and who have budgeting as well as psychological problems. But they do not seem afraid of coming to the office and talking to us about them, and we can give them not only useful advice but practical help."

Schooling, in the early days a problem, when the county education programme could not always catch up with the speed of new house building, is now satisfactory, with one county comprehensive and one Roman Catholic comprehensive in full swing, and a second Roman Catholic one due for completion at the end of 1978.

Medical services are exceptionally good—Runcorn's senior GP in its central health centre is also lecturer in general practice at Liverpool University, and GPs in training there are seconded to the town, so that patients get more than average atten-



Norton Priory comprehensive school on the edge of the town park.

Symbol of success!



A World of Shopping under one Roof!

GROSVENOR ESTATE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS LTD.
28 GROSVENOR STREET
LONDON W1

Your new factory!
We Design—Build—Finance
Contact developments division

Percy Bilton Ltd

BILTON HOUSE, LONDON W5 2TL

We have an interest in Runcorn and other growth areas with needs for industrial and residential development

Construction
Civil and
Structural Engineering
Steel Stock Holding
Plant Hire

Be sure with
Bilton
backing

Brilliantly placed in four ways

by John Chartres

Since the days of the pack-horse the locations of British industry, and thereby the concentrations of its population, have been determined by communication routes.

The Romans knew a lot about this subject and were good at their site selection. The selection of Runcorn as the site for a new town in the early 1960s was little short of brilliant from this point of view. Runcorn is ideally positioned from the point of view of four forms of transport—road, rail, air and water.

Motorways have taken over from the railways and the canals the role of determining the right places in which to site industry and concentrate population. The North-west "box" of motorways is now certainly the most comprehensive in Britain, and probably the best in any industrial area of Europe. A main north-south and east-west cross lies between Manchester and Liverpool and Runcorn is right alongside the whole system with its own expressway linking the town to the M56.

In its turn the M56 takes traffic to the east on to the M6 north-south artery and on to the M62 trans-Pennine route. To the west it serves such key points as the vast oil-chemical complexes of Stanlow and Ellesmere Port and links up with another motorway (the M53) running into the Mersey west bank ports of Birkenhead and Wallasey.

Thus from the south side of Runcorn one can drive at high speed and without let or hindrance to London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Hull, Bristol and indeed as far as Plymouth.

Road communications to the immediate north have been a little more restricted but a big improvement is in sight when the handsome bow arch bridge across the Mersey, opened by Princess Alexandra in 1961, is widened to take two lanes of traffic in each direction to cope with an estimated flow in the 1980s, of 80,000 vehicles a day.

Extensive improvements to the approach roads on either side of the bridge (the first "free" crossing of the Mersey upstream from its mouth) are nearly complete, too, with an important fly-

over system on the Runcorn side taking traffic straight on to the town's expressway system. From this month onwards sections of this improvement will be opened a stage at a time with the whole scheme scheduled for completion by late summer.

The bridge-widening has been no mean engineering feat. Happily the builders of the 1961 bridge put plenty of spare strength into the main arch structure, which is the longest of its kind in Europe, and it has been possible to widen the roadway without ever closing the bridge to traffic altogether.

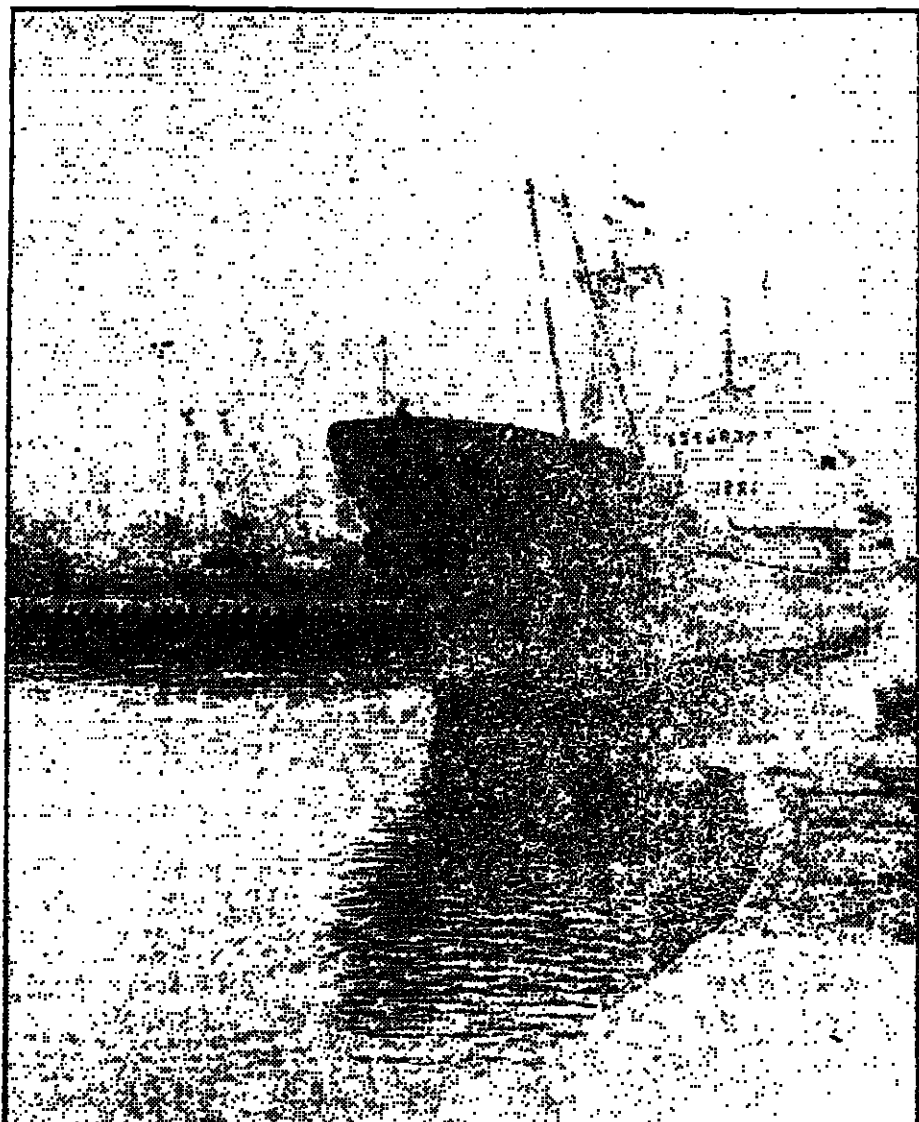
The whole project made necessary by traffic flows far beyond the expectations of the 1950s, is costing about £15m, a high proportion of this sum going into the approach road works. The 1961 bridge, including property acquisition and rehousing, cost a little less than £3m.

The Runcorn-Widnes gap has in fact been a challenge to engineers since the early nineteenth century when Telford proposed a 1,000ft suspension bridge. This was not proceeded with (Telford actually used his Runcorn design for his famous and highly successful crossing of the Menai Strait to Anglesey where it still stands as a monument to his skill) and the first crossing was the railway bridge built by the LNWR in 1868.

The first road link between the (then) Lancashire and Cheshire banks of the Mersey consisted of an extraordinary piece of Victorian ingenuity, a 1,000ft transporter bridge opened in 1905 which made 150 journeys a day with passengers and vehicles carried in a cage suspended from overhead cables. It cost £137,563 6s 4d and operated successfully for nearly 60 years.

That far-sighted nobleman the Duke of Bridgewater selected Runcorn as seaward terminal for the canal system he built to transport coal from his mines at Worsley. His docks in the heart of the old town still provide a pleasant recreational point, usually crowded with cruising boats which are now the main users of his system.

The building of the ship canal, which not only linked Manchester with the open sea but "tamed" the awkward tides on the south bank of the Mersey estuary, turned Runcorn into an efficient sea port. It still is, the docks being one of the busiest and



Runcorn Docks, operated by the Port of Manchester, is a busy section of the Manchester Ship Canal. It can handle vessels of up to 3,500 tonnes and has extensive bulk-handling facilities which are used, among other things, for the import of bulk materials for the ceramic and glass-making industries.

most profitable sections of the port of Manchester. Two airports lie within less than an hour's drive of Runcorn—Manchester Ringway, itself linked to the motorway system, and Liverpool Speke which is even closer, just on the opposite side of the Mersey. Although the latter's long-term future is in some doubt it is a particularly useful airport for cargo, charter and executive aircraft, being far less congested by main airline traffic than Ringway.

The railway bridge first built 109 years ago still provides an important feature of Runcorn's external communications as all main line trains between Liverpool and London stop there, providing an hourly service to the capital for business executives and others.

Leaving the external links on one side, two of the new town's most remarkable features are the expressway and the busway. Both road

systems are laid out in figure-eight patterns and are mutually dependent for their success. The expressway carries general traffic at a reasonable speed unhampered by pedestrians, parked vehicles or buses stopping and starting; the busway provides a clear route for public service vehicles which can move at guaranteed frequencies and average speeds.

Both appear to have been entirely successful although the final phases of the expressway system (linked with the bridge-widening and approach roads project) have yet to be completed.

The expressway, some 14 miles long, has been designed to circuit the town's outskirts with inward access to the residential communities and outward access to industrial areas and the regional road system. It is pedestrian-free, is designed as a travelling man's dream. It is also a very relaxing place in which to be a bus driver.

access provided only at special interchange points.

Short lengths of "district distributor" roads in turn give access to "local distributors". The arrangement of roads in the secondary system is such that traffic is discouraged from moving between community and development units but "nudged" back on to the expressway.

The busway is believed to be the first system of its kind serving a whole town of this size. Covering about 12 miles with the figure-eight pattern strategically aligned to serve all the focal points, its presence means that Runcorn residents can step straight out of their houses and know that a bus will arrive at the nearest stop in six minutes at longest, and take them to their destinations at a guaranteed average speed of about 20 mph.

In many ways Runcorn is a travelling man's dream. It is also a very relaxing place in which to be a bus driver.

Defence of life style proves a costly mistake

by Kate Hutchins

Ten years ago Runcorn was a small peninsula on the Cheshire side of the river Mersey, 14 miles from Liverpool and 16 miles from Chester. It had matured with typical English gradualness from its first occupation by the Canali, a nomadic tribe, in AD 76 to a township of about 25,000 people.

Its ferry across the Mersey to the Lancashire town of Widnes—"per twopenny per person per trip"—had assured it of a minor place in northern folklore, thanks to Stanley Holloway's famous monologue, in which Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom refused to pay more than half fare for their little son, Albert. The transporter bridge which superseded the ferry, and was itself superseded by a modern bridge some years ago, was its other claim to fame.

It developed commercially in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when the Bridgewater Canal brought trade and prosperity to the town and a variety of small industries sprang up (its last rammer, for instance, lasted till after the Second World War, but its site is now an ornamental garden). In the depression of the 1920s it suffered badly, with 500 empty houses in the town, but it was saved by ICI-Mond, which turned it into a chemical town, providing at least a third of the population with job security.

In the early 1960s it was a fairly sleepy and contented little urban district, with a new postwar shopping centre in Church Street and a steady, if unspectacular, programme of new housing.

It was a surprise when the Government announced that it had been designated as a new town, in which it would be less than half the total area of Runcorn. By the year 2000 it would have a population of 100,000, mostly drawn from the overcrowded Merseyside conurbation—noisy, town-bred Liverpoolians as different from the native, countrified Runcornians as chalk from cheese.

They were faced with the dilemma experienced by every small township on which it is proposed to graft a new town. Should they defend their little town and struggle to keep its character intact or should they allow

themselves to be swamped by something new, unknown and unimaginable?

Though the chairman of the urban district council declared that the designation of the new town area was "wonderful news... it will ensure our continued prosperity... I hope the townspeople will share a great pleasure", the old Runcornians were up in arms, determined to stick out for their independence. They now realize that decision was a mistake.

The development of a new town which would eventually be four times as big as the old Runcorn meant that old Runcorn would become only a section of the new one. But they confidently hoped that they would become the shopping centre of the new town, which would automatically bring them both prosperity and prestige.

They were horrified when the decision was made to build Shopping City, one of the biggest shopping precincts in Europe, in the new town, at what would be the natural centre, which would also be at the intersection of the new transport system. Old Runcorn was well to the west of this, destined to become just a district, with no hope of a central position.

Worse was to come. The widening of the Runcorn to Widnes bridge across the Mersey and the new rapid-transit busway cut through the old town, necessitating the demolition of houses and shops, and creating a spectacle of dereliction which, even if only temporary, was to have a blighting effect, both physically and psychologically, on the old town.

The trouble was that the development board, with its special powers, was only responsible for the new town. Old Runcorn was administered by the urban district council. And while council and corporation argued both householders and traders, uncertain what was going to happen, spent little or nothing on their properties.

A few of the bigger firms, including the Co-operative Wholesale Society, moved up to the new Shopping City. Small traders could not afford the rents there, which were considered exorbitant, and bitterness was felt that no concession was made to encourage local traders to make the move.

The blight on the old town was all the more noticeable as the new town rose, sparkling, very much alive, always in the headlines. It was a dispirited old town that was handed over to the new borough of Halton on the reorganization of local government in 1974. Mr Ron Turton, the borough's chief executive, carries on the story.

"We realized that it was uncertainty about the future that was crippling everybody. The idea had been that at some time a lot of capital investment would be put into the centre. There was to be a leisure and entertainment centre, a sports centre, a swimming pool and much more. But since 1972 we have had less and less money; now we have no money at all for such projects."

Two moves to end uncertainty

"One thing we decided to do, and that was to put an end to the uncertainty. We had to accept that the situation had changed and that we had better stop pretending that we were ever going to be a great town centre again, or that the replacement of old houses with beautiful new ones was likely to take place on any scale."

"We did two things. We took away the great question mark that hung over Regent Street, a road of small shops, which did not know whether it was to stay put or be demolished. We decided it should be retained, and that alone has given the traders in Runcorn a lot of confidence both in their own and the district's future."

"Then we made two residential roads—Water Road and Parker Street—into general improvement areas. These two roads contain 10 per cent of the houses in old Runcorn, and already more than 50 per cent of the tenants have applied for home improvement grants. We as a council have spent £30,000 on roads and outside design—£24,000 of it on landscaping work and greenery."

"At the same time we have sold a huge empty site on Ellesmere Street to the development corporation, which is going to build about a hundred new houses. It is some of the best available to the new town, psychologically because it makes part of the old town's history. There is no money with us."

about a hundred new houses. It is some of the best available to the new town, psychologically because it makes part of the old town's history. There is no money with us."

"There is no money with us."

"There is no money with us."

"There is no money with us."

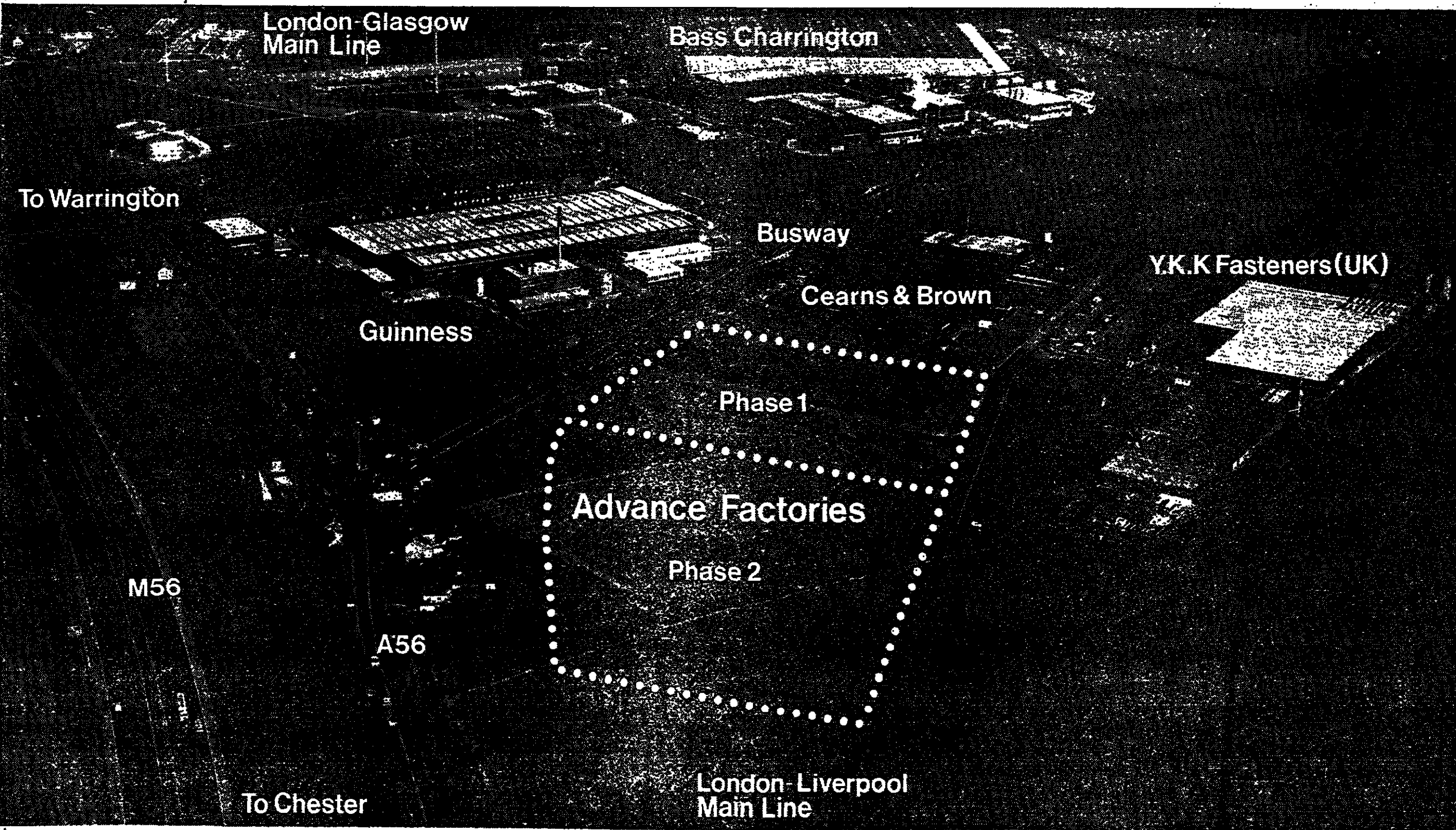
"There is no money with us."

"There is no money with us."

"There is no money with us."

"There is no money with us."

"There is no money with us."



Above: one of Runcorn's Industrial Estates at Whitehouse

RUNCORN NEW TOWN

Runcorn Development Corporation
Chapel St., Runcorn, Cheshire. Telephone Runcorn 73477

Industrial and commercial sites are readily available with the benefits of generous national and regional development incentives, at Runcorn New Town, one of the most attractive locations in the country



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

LARGEMENT OF THE EEC

gining of last year the Commission gave an unenthusiastic opinion on the application to join the Greek economy was to take the strain of it, and that before as on actual accession had to be agreed a preparatory period which the Community in Greece undertakes important structural

inion was very dis- to the Greek Govern- for political reasons ous to obtain full up as soon as possi- political reasons led il of Ministers to over- Commission's opinion, egotiation of Greece's has now begun.

he Commission's argu- ch attracted relatively ntion at the time Greece's application, ublished on its own, have been considered. Although Greece was the field it was not fediterranean country pply for membership ed to be considered hole question of the e of the Community; nly its geographical major changes in this l to affect its economic ional shape as well, nt was directly o the themes of Mr's report on the 'future development ropean Union', and ve been discussed with it.

here has not been a ussion among heads ent on the subject of, t, in spite of the for- blems which it im- poses. These were summarized by Mr i his keynote speech opean Parliament on "It will make the divergence between es of the Community er. The gap in a GNP between and the United is almost trivial

compared with that between Germany and Portugal, and the effort required to bridge the gap will be correspondingly greater. The demands on Com- munity funds will be substantial, with obvious implications for the Regional and Social funds in particular. Enlargement will also make it harder to improve the overall operation of the Common agricultural Policy." (He might have added, however, that it will also make it even more neces- sary.) "And there is of course the deep concern that the Com- munity might become looser rather than tighter as a conse- quence of enlargement."

But Mr Crosland went on to say that "the political benefits of enlargement outweigh all the practical difficulties." "By sus- taining the fledgling democracies at the most crucial stage in their evolution, we shall protect them against their enemies within and without. In one part of the world at least, we shall be able to say that democracy is a blooming flower and not a fading one.... Enlargement is an investment in the democratic future of Europe."

That is the argument which Mr Karamanlis put so persuasively to the Community's political leaders in 1975 and 1976. That is the argument which Dr Mario Soares is most heavily emphasizing in his current tour of European capitals to prepare for Portugal's formal application to join. That, no doubt, is the argument which a Soarish prime minister will soon be putting in his turn if Spain's general election goes ahead as planned this summer and a government reflecting the result can then be formed. And the British Government at least still considers it an unanswerable argument, clearly, for on Mon- day night Mr Callaghan assured Dr Soares that his application would have Britain's full support.

It is certainly a difficult argument to resist. There can be little doubt that the need for closer ties with the Community has been a major factor under- mining the right-wing dictator- ships in Greece and Spain, and stiffening the resistance of

Portugal to the attempt to impose a left-wing dictatorship on it in 1975. To block the process of integration now, when the Spanish and Portuguese economies at any rate are suffering severe strains from both internal and external factors, would clearly increase the danger of political relapse.

It could be argued, however, that to force the pace of integration would be equally dangerous. In the case of Portugal especially it is very difficult to see industry being ready to take the full thrust of European competition even by 1985. The probability is that all three governments will seek, in varying degrees, to secure the economic advantages of member- ship while postponing its burdens. That is something which we in Britain are not particularly well placed to criticize. But the hard fact cannot be escaped that the more members the Com- munity has of that type, the heavier the burdens will be for those who do bear their full share—and the thinner the jam will have to be spread for those who need help.

The Irish, as the poorest existing member of the Com- munity (with a per capita income actually lower than that of Greece), are perhaps more acutely conscious of this point than we are. There is a sad lack of applicants from the more prosperous northern and central regions of Europe (Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland). If only the Community could make itself attractive to those coun- tries, its general economic prospects would look much healthier.

But even then the sheer number and diversity of member states would make the achieve- ment of an integrated political and economic union less likely. It is hard to see how the price of enlargement can fail to be, in practice if not in theory, either the creation of a "two-tier Europe" or the abandonment of the goal of closer integration. One or other price may well be worth paying, but perhaps we should be clearer in our own minds which it is to be.

TO LOSE FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE

as an industrial sit-in by students at School of Economics to the pattern of the months. The work- a claim: far from the management they would be only to comply. If they would let them. Pro- fessor is evidently as his students by the ease in tuition fees eased the disturbance ularly aggrieved, by English device of the increases merely adiations, when gra- tuations of learning y with them except to themselves). ased fees are a more ssue at the LSE than or it has a high pro- gress graduate students from abroad. ve undergraduates ts from their local ubsidy is far from und the abrupt quad- fees is bound to in- hardship and the it of some cherished t 25,000 students in y will be affected. is small in relation ber of students as a

whole, but the individual consequences will often be severe. Special treatment has been offered for those who have already started courses, and it should be generous.

Foreign students are a more complex problem. In the past it was felt to be part of Britain's imperial obligations to help young people from abroad to study here. It is still desirable that they should come, both from our point of view and theirs, and that some degree of support should be supplied at this end. But as well as being a form of international aid and a means of winning friends overseas, British education is a commodity in keen demand. There is no case for indiscriminate subsidy at a high level when the number of foreign students here has more than doubled in ten years and applications have reached the point where colleges have begun to impose inflexible quotas.

The present average cost of a course of higher education is about £2,000 a year, and the proposed rates of £650 for foreign undergraduates and £850 for graduates are far more reasonable than the present rates. A few students from poorer countries already have their tuition fees paid by our

Government as overseas aid, a more sensible form of subsidy than charging quarter-price to students coming from countries wealthier than our own and already, perhaps, subsidized from home.

Mrs Shirley Williams announced the higher fees in November (they were only slightly stiffer than proposals her predecessor had made four months earlier), and they will not come into effect until next September. It is not clear why the LSE students were seized with ungovernable indignation just at this moment, though last night's statement by officials of the students' union indicates an element of internal political opportunism. The issue is one that commands a natural sym- pathy in most students. Demon- strations of this kind have in the past sometimes been effec- tive in winning concessions from a college administration, at the cost of some loss of wider public goodwill. But in Dr Dahrendorf, of course, the students are preaching to the helpless con- verted. To the public in general, and to the Government whom the students must seek to persuade, disrupting the work of the school must seem the worst way to argue for higher subsidies.

Research

ar and reasoned article on the Cruelty to Ani- Hugh Jenkins men- tion of introducing effect—a change of the issuing of licences y animal experiments. It is not necessary to legislate to achieve a in some areas new could be virtually im- ply (as, for example, force the use of alter- ations in animal ex- necting administrative ld be more than ad- chieve, the necessary tude and outlook. le, we consider that rogress would result nne measures. ne Office should insist plicants for licences re on the use of labo- and the non-sentient before they start. We are confident id result in both vir- techniques as cell cul- pture simulation, but more efficient research knowledge of the sys- tems they are working training in statistical ists.

ne Office should ter control over the experiments that are nder licence by requir- ports of the research rried out. It is not an answer should outline of the ques- investigated and the, an answer together, sion of why the par- being used is must be true that this ore better work and sence for too much ried out without uly planned. There d be available for pub-

3 The Advisory Committee should have a full-time secretariat and powers to investigate all aspects of animal use in biomedical research and other paramedical activities. Ideally the committee should form an intermediary body between the Home Secretary and the research workers. These changes should produce a significant change of emphasis in biomedical research (away from animal models) without resorting to any change in the existing legisla- tion. Yours faithfully, ANDREW ROWAN, Scientific Administrator, FRAME (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments), 312a Worpole Road, Wimbledon, SW20.

Incomes policy

From Lord Caldecote
Sir, Your leading article of February 11 came to the sound conclusion that a permanent rigid incomes policy is impracticable in a democ- racy. Although it is by no means clear how we can implement that conclusion without disaster. It is, therefore, not surprising that many people are showing their opposition to a continuation of the present right policy.

In the next phase, some want greater flexibility to reward skill, experience and hard work, within agreed and clearly defined overall percentage increase which will be consistent with greater incentives and reducing the rate of inflation. Others advocate an immediate return to "free collective bargain- ing", presumably leading to sub- standard pay rises for virtually everyone and a return to the disastrous conditions of 1974. Those who support this latter policy seem to me to be under a strong obligation to explain more clearly what their objectives are, and how they expect to achieve them. Is it their policy to have no agreed limit of any kind to pay increases? If so, do they accept

that the resulting pay increases will lead to massive inflationary pres- sure sooner or later? Or do they envisage some upper limit of income above which there will be virtually no increases? In that case the lower paid would benefit in purchasing power as the ex- penses of the higher paid, thus further reducing differentials. Is this their policy?

Already there are encouraging signs of a broad consensus of agreement amongst CBI, Government and many trade union leaders, on the need for another, but more flexible, phase of incomes policy. Whatever our disagreements on other aspects of economic and industrial policy, surely it is in the interests of everyone to support this consensus and to smoke out those who want an immediate return to "free collec- tive bargaining" or "free for all" by asking the questions posed earlier in this letter? Yours faithfully, CALDECOTE, 1 Kingsway, WC2.

Literary insularity

From Mr Alan Brownjohn
Sir, Bernard Levin (February 8) is harsh about some recent Penguin Classics. I suppose I don't have to possess *Birds Through a Ceiling* of Auden to be compelled to devour Mr Levin with my breakfast. But both things happen to be the case, so I should like to recommend your readers not to be put off these classics of Auden verse by Mr Levin's strictures. Sent back to them by his article, I found what I had recalled: elegant and beauti- fully judged translations of poems both simple and profound, a small revelation to one ignorant of the literary heritage drawn upon to make the selection, and thus thoroughly fulfilling the purpose of the series. Yours, etc, ALAN BROWNJOHN, 2 Belsize Park, NW3.

The creation of wealth

From Mr James Robertson

Sir, Lord Plowden (Letters, February 11) believes that the important thing for this country, which should take precedence over everything else, is the creation of more wealth, that is, industry and commerce that create this wealth; and that from this wealth will flow new jobs, welfare and education. Most other leading people in industry, poli- tics, trade unions, civil service and the media in Britain today still seem to share this view.

Fortunately, a great many other people do not. We question the idea of "wealth" as something created by manufacturers of cigarettes and sweets, but not by doctors and dentists; created by bankers and commercial lawyers but not by housewives and social workers; created by agribusiness, but not by people working their smallholdings, allotments and gar- dens; created by advertising agencies but not by schools; created by arms dealers, but not by the peacepeople. Is it a law of nature that compels us to make more and more things, including many that are harmful or useless, before we can attend to the needs of people?

No, it is not. The idea of wealth as something that has to be created by the "economic" activities of industry and commerce, so that it can then be spent on something quite different called "social" wellbeing, is part of the metaphysics of the industrial age. As that age draws towards its end, one of this country's greatest strengths is the great number among its people who already sense that the old meta- physics is out of date.

We, who live in the first industrial country, are now among the first to arrive at the next great turning point in history. We should take heart. In our intuitive wisdom, we are already laying the foundations for the post-industrial future, in spite of the chorus of influential voices like Lord Plowden's that urge us vainly to prolong the industrial past. Yours faithfully, JAMES ROBERTSON, 7 St Anne's Villas, W11, February 14.

From Lord Plowden

Sir, My friend Mr Jasper More (Letters, February 14) needs me to ask for saying that the creation of wealth should take precedence over everything else.

I should have made explicit what I thought was clear by implication, that the creation of more wealth is essential if we are to do all the things that the electorate demands, better pensions, a better health service, better education, more jobs, and all this without inflation. Perhaps as a people we would be happier if we could be satisfied with the great improvements that have taken place in the general standards of living since the war. Mr More, as an MP, must know what his constituents want. It is my impression that most people appear to want an improvement in their material standard of living. This standard has in recent years been raised in part by borrow- ing from abroad. This must now cease and the gap filled and the loans repaid by exports. If our standard of living is not to fall the creation of more wealth is necessary.

By my letter I hoped to empha- size the vital part played by management in the wealth creating process, the need to start to offset the fall that has taken place in their standard of living in the past few years and the necessity of industry.

If Mr More interpreted my letter to mean that the creation of wealth should take precedence over things like law and order, justice and com- passion, then of course he is right. But I have the flattering feeling he attributes to me in his letter he cannot surely have thought I could have been so foolish, only a poor draftsman. Yours faithfully, PLOWDEN, 6 Abercorn House, Cleveland Row, St James's, SW1, February 14.

Treasure Island

From Mr Ernest McEw

Sir, Writing of the Queen's visit to Western Samoa as part of her Jubilee tour, your correspondent Roger Bernhardt says (February 9) that "Asia is thought to have been the setting of Robert Louis Steven- son's *Treasure Island*". I cannot believe that anyone who knows any- thing about Stevenson, *Treasure Island* or Western Samoa can seri- ously believe this to be the case. Stevenson himself in a letter to his friend Sidney Colvin in 1884 wrote: "I came out of Kingsley's *At Last* where I got the Dead Man's Chest—and that was the seed— and out of the great Captain Johnson's *History of Venerable Pirates*. The scenery is Californian in part, and in part chic." He told an inter- viewer from the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1890: "*Treasure Island* is not in the Pacific. In fact, I only wish myself that I knew where it was.... However, it is gen- erally supposed to be in the West Indies." Yours faithfully, ERNEST MCEW, 6 Abercorn Road, Stanmore, Middlesex, February 10.

A plea for the encore

From Mrs H. C. Harley

Sir, Mr Alex Auswaks (*The Times*, February 12) is unfortunate. At a recent concert in the Sheldonian Theatre, Mr Paul Tortelier of Paris gave three encores (and talked to his delighted audience in English). There are of course some occa- sions, eg a performance of Beethoven's last piano sonata in C min op 111, after which any encore would seem frivolous and imper- inent. Yours sincerely, ANNE E. HARLEY, 15 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.

Planning and the plight of cities

From Professor W. A. West and Mr David I. Young

Sir, For almost thirty years we in this country have had a system of town and country planning which is the envy of planners abroad and which, with its supporting structure of Industrial Development Certifi- cates and Office Development Per- mits, is probably the most comprehensive planning system in the Western world.

The stated aims of planning remain as plausible as ever—so much so that it is difficult to con- vince the ordinary layman that the system has failed on nearly all fronts, and its benefits have been outweighed by its burdens. In particular: it has failed to prevent urban sprawl (as has been graphi- cally shown by Dr Coleman's recent follow-up of the 1933 Stamp sur- vey); it has been a major factor in contributing to the decline of the cities; it has worsened the housing situation; it has been responsible for the dissipation of scarce resources into demonstrably wrong objectives; its *pro tanto* monopoly effect has been a significant element in the inflation of land prices; it has proved, by the lack of quality of our post-war developments, that good architecture seems to vary in inverse proportion to the number of planners.

In brief, the country has suffered from intensive over-planning—often based upon dubious data and the wish of the South-East drift) and often in pursuit of objectives far from universally accepted (such as the depopulation of our cities) when unimpeded organic develop- ment could well have produced in- finitely better results, socially, aesthetically and economically. Most of all, our planning system has provided a financial incubus that the country simply cannot afford. We are not referring primarily to the direct costs of the planning machine (in 1974 a total of £100 million at local level plus its mirror image outside) but to the insupportable costs to our whole economy caused by delays, shortages and plain bad decisions. In the United States there has been some reluctance to follow our own land-use planning path on the grounds that strong land-use policies can have a harmful effect on the economy. In this country— with a much weaker economy— there has been no such moderation.

At this moment in time, we have an ideal opportunity to ditch the London docklands have remained derelict for years. We should open up this eight-and-a-half square miles by freeing it from all planning control. A development corporation should have the whole area vested in it with a brief to provide the appropriate infrastruc- ture and to sell the whole of the rest of the area plot by plot without

Violence in Ireland

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Mr David James describes him- self as a friend of Ireland" (Feb- ruary 12). It is hard to find evidence of this in his letter.

The Dublin Government, and the overwhelming majority of Irish people, are as appalled as he is (and much more seriously affected) by the violence on both sides, and whether in Ireland or in Britain. There has been paid to the active co-operation of the Dublin Government in combating it.

Mr James repeats the criticism of Ireland for pursuing the torture case at Strasbourg. Yet this has already had two important out- comes: Britain has admitted that the interrogation methods used by her security forces in Ireland and elsewhere did indeed amount to torture and were thus illegal, and she has accordingly undertaken before the European Court to re- train her forces. She declines, however, to agree that any of those concerned will be prosecuted.

So far from being the work of outlawed thugs with negligible public support and no official back- ing, the IRA activity has been carried out by servants of the Crown— hence the liability of the taxpayer for damages—especially trained by Army personnel who had perfected their techniques in Aden and else- where. It is inconceivable that, who record exist on their identity, the methods have been clearly estab-

Malta and China

From Mr Toni Pellegrini

Sir, I refer to the news item which appeared in *The Times* of February 11, captioned "Malta looks for experience of its British residents", and must observe that your corre- spondent has taken the opportunity to make some mischief on the side. Instead of expressing satisfaction that the British residents have been welcomed to the Government of Malta the use of their knowledge and experience, which the Government of Malta accepted, your correspondent chose to link the initiative of the British residents in Malta with the idea which Malta has received and con- tinues to receive from China. The generous assistance given to the people of Malta by the people of China should not be thus deprecated. Your correspondent well knows that the Government of Malta is all in favour of a mixed economy. If one needs confirmation, one has only to ask De La Rue, Blue Bell (Wranglers' makers) and other transnational firms who have settled in our country during the past few years and are now thriving. Indeed, it is only when the national interest so requires or where private enter- prise is wanting that the Govern- ment invests directly in industry. This is spelt out clearly in Malta's development plan 1973-80.

To increase employment the Gov- ernment of Malta was helped to no mean extent by the Government and people of China. Already the Chinese have spent more than six million Maltese pounds on the softest imaginable terms to provide much needed know-how and techno- logical assistance that these new in- dustries will not be an excuse for a Chinese presence, the Chinese pro- ject leaders have left long before some of these industries have reached their full development.

The Chinese have helped and are helping to extend ship repair facili- ties on which 600 construction workers are now employed, as well as to set up six factories now em- ploying over 600 people, and these

The power of civil servants

From Mr Kenneth Baker, MP for St Marylebone (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article today (Feb- ruary 15) on the relative power of civil servants and Ministers in the wake of the Haines revelations is perceptive and very well written. Several socialists have sought refuge in Richard Crossman's sedu- cive argument that Labour Govern- ments fail to achieve their political objectives because they are under- mined by a hostile Civil Service and particularly the Bourns in the Treasury. Some Conservatives also believe that there is a mafia, hold- ing its operational meetings in the Cabinet office canteen, which really runs the country.

As a Minister in the Civil Service Department 1972-74, I was able to observe daily the relationship between civil servants and their political masters. I have no doubt whatsoever that if Ministers fail to get their way they have only them- selves to blame. Some Ministers in any government recognize that they are jolly lucky to have got where they have and as they don't want to change things dramatically they are quite happy to succumb to the bureaucratic embrace.

Others want to change things or leave things "mark", a process which the Treasury are bound to get in- volved in since it normally involves spending more money. Ministers gain the respect and loyalty of their civil servants if they are prepared to argue their case against the official advice easily well. This means real application, and mastery of the subject, and an ability to work long hours.

Ministers who claim that they are not supported by their civil servants or actively betrayed by them in the battle of Whitehall are really reflecting upon their own inability to gain their support. Ministers who were clearly in charge of their Departments, such as Margaret Thatcher at Education, Jim Prior at Agriculture, Peter Carington at Defence and Willie Whitelaw in very different circumstances in Northern Ireland, all won the ungrudging loyalty of their civil servants and indeed were more effective Ministers and politicians as a result.

The fact, dear Joe Haines, lies not in the civil servants. Yours sincerely, KENNETH BAKER, February 15.

Nuclear arms race

From the Chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Sir, Lord Chalfont is less than fair to Henry Kissinger (*The Times*, February 14). Far from accepting Lord Chalfont's own bellicose advocacy of "strategic superiority", Kissinger argued (in 1975), "One of the questions we have to ask our- selves as a country is what in the balance of power is strategic superiority? What do you do with it?"

The hopeful signs coming from Washington are not that disarmament is on the agenda: the increase in defence spending equivalent to the total British arm expenditure is proof enough of that. The big change is that President Carter seems to realize that the risks from nuclear proliferation outweigh the possible advantages of being able to destroy the Soviet Union 20 times, rather than only 10 times, over 30 years. He proposes to stop doing various things (like underground nuclear tests) which the United States no longer needs to do any- way, in the hope that this will discourage other countries treading the same path.

It is good that President Carter places so much emphasis on the need to halt the nuclear arms race. One would have hoped that a former Minister for Disarmament would do the same. Yours faithfully, JOHN COX, Eastbourne House, Bulls Road, E2, February 14.

Juvenile sentencing

From Mr Maurice Hawker

Sir, Mr A. J. Brayshaw's letter (Feb- ruary 11) and his specific comments on the Children and Young Persons Act 1959 adds nothing to the known position of the Magistrates' Associa- tion on the subject of juveniles. Con- trary to the impression created in his letter there has been a steep rise in the number of juveniles in cus- todial care, particularly borstals and detention centres in recent years. As the 1959 Act is still only half im- plemented it is grossly misleading to attribute to it the failure to which Mr Brayshaw refers. Hopefully Mr Brayshaw is not suggesting in his letter that magis- trates could cure the juvenile delinquency problem given the appropriate powers. I suggest that far from granting magistrates more powers serious consideration should be given to further diminishing their duties as far as juvenile sen- tencing is concerned thereby cre- ating the opportunity for more ap- propriate community facilities in the knowledge that institutional care of unrepentant juveniles has limited value for most juvenile offenders. Yours faithfully, M. O. HAWKER, Deputy Director of Social Services, Essex, Chelmsford Road, Shenfield, Essex, February 12.

Jubilee Hymn

From Dr John S. Andrews

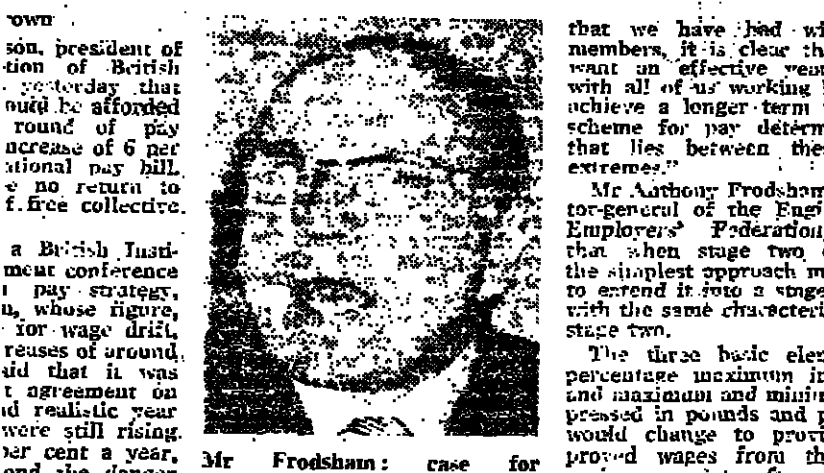
Sir, The basic weakness of the Poet Laureate's jubilee hymn is shared by the following verse from *The Hand, O God, has guided Thy flock from age to age*: "God bless our merry England, God bless our Church and Queen, God bless our great Archbishop, The best there ever had in Britain." (W. K. Lowther Clarke, *A Hundred Years of Hymns Ancient & Modern*, 1960, p 46). This was omitted by the 1988 editors of A & M, who no doubt realized that the best hymns are theistic, if not Christocentric. Yours faithfully, JOHN S. ANDREWS, 270 Bowerham Road, Lancaster.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

PLANNING A NEW WAREHOUSE?
Build in the benefits of an
ATCOST
STRUCTURAL FRAME
ATCOST INDUSTRIAL DIVISION
Bathurst St, House, London W14 6BT-435 0608

Chief puts 6pc rise t on wages bill and s out free bargaining



Mr Frodsham: case for extension.

Mr Anthony Frodsham, director-general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, said that when stage two expired the simplest approach might be to extend it into a stage 2a, with the same characteristics as stage two.

The three basic elements—percentage maximum increase, and maximum and minimum expressed in pounds and pence—would change to provide improved wages from the first anniversary date after August.

In a separate paper Mr Frodsham explained that the basis for the calculation would be the wages ruling at the end of stage one.

For example, the minimum would be increased to help the lower end; the percentage of 5 would be increased to a new level, taking into account acceptable inflation levels, and the maximum should be substantially raised—perhaps to 120 per cent—so that better still abolished altogether.

This formula, Mr Frodsham said, would address a substantial part of the injustices of stage two, although it would by no means restore differentials to levels considered to be excessive, compressed only three years ago.

Looking further ahead, he suggested that lessons might be learnt from the Russian system, where each industry had around six or seven pay grades. Pay levels were determined centrally, differentials between the grades being established on a clear and rational basis.

“So we shall have to do better than that. Pay restraints of the present restrictive kind cannot continue much longer because it builds a dangerous dam which one day bursts with disastrous consequences.

“In the many consultations

Silence on advances to Chrysler

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

Chrysler UK has begun drawing on a £28m loan from public funds but the Government is refusing to state the amount of advances it has made. The company has already received £30m in grants towards losses made in 1976 during its agreed reorganisation programme.

Part of the Government's medium-term commitment in helping Chrysler UK, put at £162.5m up to and including 1979, was provision for a £28m unsecured loan guaranteed by the American parent, Chrysler Corporation, for capital development up to the end of 1977.

Certain advances have now been made towards the “Strike, Labour and Truck Plan” covering a new improved Avenger to be produced by this summer and a new small conventional drive car to be introduced next year, and towards a new van, truck planned for 1978.

However, Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said: “For confidentiality reasons, I am not prepared to disclose the amount of these advances.”

This refusal to say how much taxpayer funds have been provided is bound to surprise MPs anxious to monitor progress on the Chrysler rescue scheme. They were originally given the fullest details of proposed aid, including sight of the legal agreements.

There is already some discontent at the committee over the Government's ability to hold the Government accountable for provision of public funds to Chrysler UK via the National Enterprise Board.

China ships \$350m of bullion to Britain

China shipped more than 80 tonnes of gold valued at over \$350m (about £200m) to Britain yesterday, one of its largest bullion shipments to the West identified for a considerable time, official British bullion statistics show.

The size of the consignment is causing much interest among Western banks involved in the West's trade, on the basis that it could represent a convertible currency operation by China to assist a new drive for industrialisation.

The United Kingdom customs figures show that China shipped 80,797 kilograms of gold valued at £205.3m to this country in December, its only bullion shipment to Britain last year.

Chinese trading activity in both gold and silver in the West is not rare, although the size of its December operation is causing special interest.

China was a steady and substantial net buyer of gold in the 1960s and during the currency instability in the West from 1971 onwards which resulted in devaluations of the main two global reserve currencies, the dollar and sterling.

The British figures show only the physical movement of gold, the “paper” money, which it will be disposed of through the London Gold Market, analysts noted.

There is not yet conclusive evidence that all the gold has been sold, although Chinese bullion selling was reported in Europe towards the end of 1976.

Some London bankers with West-West trade links suggest China may be preparing to re-launch its five-year plan to intensify the country's industrialization.

Proceeds from gold sales are apparently needed for normal balance of payments purposes because China posted a trade surplus of more than \$300m in 1976, the bankers added.

The estimated surplus, the first in three years, is based on calculations by the Japanese external trade organisation, Jetro.

China's five-year plan, held up for at least two years because of the political instability in the country, was resumed in 1977, the bankers suggested. Extensive imports of Western capital equipment and expertise will be needed.

Other Western bankers believe this latest gold shipment provides evidence of the evidence of China's foreign monetary strategy.

They think the consignment may reflect defensive action to protect China's trade position from deterioration caused by the earthquake in the coal-mining and industrial region of Tangshan last summer.

Some bankers added that it cannot be entirely discounted that the gold may have been used primarily as collateral for dollar and other currency loans in the West.

Bank statement: A spokesman for the Bank of England said yesterday that it knew of the gold shipment, but was not directly involved in the transaction. It was likely that the gold would be sold on the bullion markets.

However, the fact that it had been physically shipped to Britain did not mean that the gold would be sold in London. Britain might simply be a convenient place for the consignment to be held pending ultimate delivery.

But' one-day strike planned Leyland over pay restraint

organized return to free collective bargaining.

At a press conference later, Mr Derek Robinson, the committee's chairman, asked why there would not be a secret ballot on the strike call, replied: “You do it your way and we do it ours.”

He admitted that it could lead to a “free-for-all”, but said that if the Government did not accept freedom from pay restraints in August, car workers would feel equally free to go ahead with strike action.

Questioned about the effect of further strike action on a British Leyland already at a near standstill with more than 21,000 workers idle, he said: “If we can break down the walls of Jericho on more pay restraint, we can settle our own problems inside British Leyland.”

He said flat-rate increases and the absence of bonus incentives had eroded differentials and were to blame for most current conflicts in Leyland. The feeling was so explosive

that it was going to be difficult to keep the lid on until the end of phase two in July.

The shop stewards' recommendations, and discussion documents, began circulating in factories last night. It read in part: “Inside Leyland we are sitting on a powder keg. Our members are so frustrated that every small issue is blown up out of all proportion.

“British Leyland workers have a vested interest in the retention of a Labour Government. The results of recent by-elections—particularly Walsall North and the defeat of Stinchcombe—are an indication of the disenchantment with a Labour Government.”

The need to decisively influence the current round of discussions is paramount. Not only will a radical change in government pay policy assist us in overcoming pay anomalies within Leyland, it will also make a major contribution to the survival of a Labour Government.”

Threat to investment, page 18

Swift rally by pound and shares

By David Mott

Sterling and shares made a sharp recovery yesterday from Monday's losses, with the FT index gaining almost 10 points, and the pound closing three-quarters of a cent up at \$1.7045.

On the stock market most dealers were expecting a rally, but the start of the day would have settled for two or three points on the index. In the event it closed 9.8 ahead at 376.1, recouping two-thirds of the previous day's loss.

The closing gold positions were supplemented by a fairly solid demand at the lower levels in the pre-lunch session, but the interest dwindled in the afternoon.

In the ill-edged market the stronger performance of sterling was an additional help and gains of up to £1 were scored throughout the range. Short-dated stocks ended between one-half and a full point better while long's were confined to a narrower band between three-quarters and £1 ahead.

Sterling's rise moved its effective depreciation against a basket of other currencies from 43.6 per cent to 43.4 per cent.

Some of the gain came from the attitudes of the authorities, which the markets also responded favourably to a belief that the trade unions might be more willing to accept a continuation of some form of pay restraint than recent speeches had suggested.

Bank Governor advises longer-term borrowing for the finance houses

By Our Financial Staff

Need for finance houses to protect themselves against fluctuating interest rates by lengthening the term of their liabilities and by exploring the possibilities of variable rate structures was emphasised at the annual dinner of the Finance Houses Association last night by both Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, and Mr Richard Barnes, chairman of the FHA.

The Governor pointed out that the average length of finance houses' assets “is perhaps 18 months for consumer credit and possibly longer for industrial lending, whereas the average length of deposits is probably less than six months.”

Given the much greater fluctuations in interest rates, the houses would be less exposed to sharp change in financial conditions “if it were possible to obtain somewhat longer term funds.”

“Since interest rates—as we have recently seen—can go down as well as up,” Mr Richardson went on, “variable rate lending can have attractions for borrowers as well as lenders.”

Mr Barnes said: “Some of our guests may wonder why industry turns to members of this association for financial advice. It could, presumably, obtain through alternative sources—sometimes at lower rates.

“The answer is contained in one word—‘certainty’. Finance houses offer the facility to finance the acquisition of plant, machinery and vehicles by way of a fixed amount, repayable over a fixed period and, very often, at a fixed rate.

“Our ability to provide this facility,” he continued, “could be greatly increased if we had two things. First, we need a better supply of medium to long-term funds and second, the availability and reliability of leasing would be greatly improved if the rate of Corporation Tax were fixed at the beginning of the tax year, instead of retroactively.”

Industry maintains its production impetus

By David Blake

Industrial production in the United Kingdom during the final months of 1976 maintained the momentum of activity it reached in the autumn, according to figures released yesterday.

This all-industries index of production stood at 102.3 in December, marginally down on the November level of 103.1 because of the Christmas holidays.

For the last quarter as a whole, however, the all-industries index stood 1.4 per cent above its third-quarter level. In manufacturing industries, the index was 0.7 per cent up during the final quarter compared with the previous three months.

The figures released yesterday were provisional, and subject to revision, but they do show that during the latter part of 1976 the industrial sector recovered strongly from the setback experienced during the summer.

During the final quarter the index rose 3.2 per cent on the previous three-month period. Intermediate goods are mainly products such as fuels and chemicals.

Other sectors performed less well. Production declined in the investment goods sector by 0.3 per cent, while in consumer goods the index fell 0.8 per cent during the final quarter, though mainly because the third-quarter figure was depressed by low August output.

Among industrial groups the most successful performers were mining and quarrying (up 7.2 per cent in the final quarter) and gas, electricity and water, up 6.2 per cent. The biggest drop was recorded by food, drink and tobacco, which fell 2.3 per cent.

Thus, the final picture which emerges is that as the year ended industrial production was running higher than during the summer months, but only slightly. Indeed, in 1976, the index ended the year only 2.8 per cent higher than it was in 1975.

Just how fast production was expanding at the end of the year is not clear from yesterday's figures.

Hopes rise for Massey plant peace

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

There were hopes last night that the eight-week-old strike at Massey-Ferguson's Coventry tractor plant might be settled soon.

The first significant breakthrough in the deadlocked dispute, which has so far cost £55m worth of lost production, came after a day-long meeting in London between management and union officials.

Both sides refused to disclose what was agreed at the meeting, but hinted that the gap had narrowed and this might lead to further negotiations.

Among those taking part were Mr Philip Forster, Coventry district official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, who yesterday met members of the strike committee representing the 1,150 assembly workers who walked out on December 22.

It is understood that he briefed them on the outcome of the talks, and suggested that a meeting of workers should be called later in the week.

The dispute was made official a fortnight ago by the AUEW, which has accused the company of a “lock-out” in contravention of the agreed disputes procedure. The main stumbling block to negotiations has been management's insistence that the strikers should first return to work and meet the agreed target of 48 tractors per shift.

Last night the company refused to indicate if it was now prepared to drop or amend this condition.

Higher financial pledge sought for dependencies

By Our Political Correspondent

An increase from £45m to £300m for financial guarantees to the Asian Development Bank to cover obligations incurred by the Solomon Islands, Hong Kong and the Gilbert Islands, is being sought by the Government through an Order in the House of Commons.

Mr John Tomlinson, parliamentary secretary, Ministry of Overseas Development, explained to a Commons Standing Committee yesterday that existing guarantees of £37m covered outstanding subscriptions to the bank of the three dependencies, together with loans to a water desalination plant and a sewage treatment scheme.

Also involved are loans to the Gilbert Islands for building a causeway to link two islands and to the Solomon Islands for a health development project.

The purpose was to cover further commitments. In the pipeline was a loan of £12m for a Hongkong housing project, and the bank had in mind loans to the Solomon Islands totalling over £4m.

Krupp ties up crude oil deal with Iran

Essen, Feb 15.—Fried Krupp GmbH has concluded an agreement with the National Iranian Oil Co under which Iran will deliver crude oil to Krupp in connection with Krupp's supplies of industrial equipment to Iran.

A Krupp spokesman said the agreement, signed at the end of 1976 and now in force had no connexion with Iran's method of payment for its 25.01 per cent stake in Krupp announced last October. Iran was paying for this in cash, he said.

Industry sources said the deal concerned 4.5 million tonnes of crude, to be delivered to Krupp over a long period and to be re-sold to the Belgian oil company Petrofin.

Industry sources noted that Krupp, together with the Belgian company Mechim, had been negotiating with Iran on a copper project in Iran's Kerman province costing between \$130m and \$135m (about £76m-£79m).

Krupp has also contracted to build a steel plant near Isfahan in Iran, at a cost of around \$3,000m.

The price Iran is paying for its 25.01 per cent stake in Krupp has been estimated by the German press as DM575m (nearly £213m).—Reuter.

Te threatens Fiesta

of the new Fiesta at Ford, Dagenham, threatened last night by a 300-strong union of workers in a move to a colleagues on the shift did not work to night.

The jobs of would be threatened today. The lay-offs could result in production of the Fiesta—which went on sale on February 2—and the Cortina being halted.

A joint shop stewards' statement said the incident occurred on the first day of a training course for new recruits in the production area. They said the foreman's request was “abnormal” because it happened at the end of the shift and created the “altercation” for which the company dismissed the worker.

Citibank predicts \$1,000m surplus for US economy

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 15

A \$2,300m (about £1,353m) swing in the United States balance of payments on current account in 1977 is likely to produce a surplus of about \$1,000m, even though the trade deficit may widen by about \$900m to at least \$10,500m, according to economists at Citibank in New York.

These forecasts are consistent with—although substantially more detailed than—predictions that have been made by American government economists.

The predictions, published in Citibank's *Economic Week*, reported today, are based on the widely held assumption that the American economy will expand by about 5 per cent in real terms this year.

The most controversial aspect of today's predictions centres on imports. The economists forecast a 12 per cent rise, after a 27 per cent gain last year. This assumes a much slower rate of oil import growth (these rose from \$26,500m to \$34,600m in 1976), partly based on expectations that domestic oil output will rise as oil starts to flow through the Alaskan pipeline in the second half of 1977.

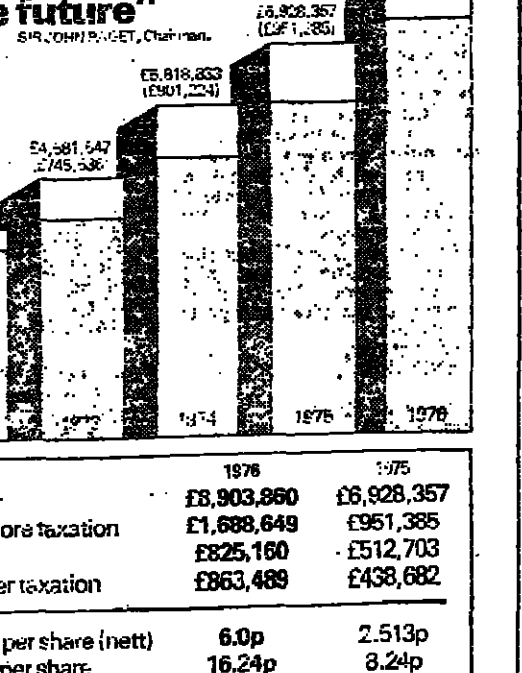
Oil imports are currently running at a record rate and any further price increases, together with the high possibility of some delay in the start of Alaskan production, could seriously jeopardise the Citibank forecasts.

Citibank predicts that exports will rise by 12 per cent in 1977, after a 7 per cent gain in 1976. This increase will partly be accounted for by the general economic recovery expected in the major industrial countries. The economists also note that “many of the oil-importing developing countries, after a year or more of severe import restraint, are now in a position to resume import growth.”

Thermal Syndicate Ltd.

Neptune Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 6DG.

ier steady with in 1976 with thient prospects he future



How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Ass News	11p to 12.5p	E Fogarty	5p to 5.25p
Ass Port Cent	4p to 4.12p	Hunting Assoc	4p to 3.75p
Burdays Bank	10p to 10.25p	Lido Pru Invest	4p to 4.6p
Shell	3p to 3.38p	Maynards	4p to 4.6p
Beecham	5p to 5.25p		
EMI	6p to 6.25p		
GEC	7p to 7.15p		
GKN	11p to 11.25p		
Hawker Siddeley	10p to 10.25p		
Imp-Gen Ind	5p to 5.25p		
Lloyds Bank	15p to 15.25p		
Runciman	5p to 5.25p		
Selection Tst	12p to 12.46p		
Summers Old	3p to 2.6p		
Walker J Gold	4p to 3.5p		

THE POUND

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
11p to 151p		
10p to 286p	Australia \$	1.60
10p to 375p	Austria Sch	30.25
6p to 495p	Belgium Fr	64.50
10p to 126p	Canada \$	1.79
10p to 138p	Denmark Kr	10.35
12p to 332p	Finland Mk	6.70
10p to 295p	France Fr	8.67
12p to 424p	Germany Dm	6.75
4p to 148p	Greece Dr	67.75
	Hongkong \$	8.20
	Italy L	1570.00
	Japan Yen	360.00
6p to 104p	Netherlands Gld	4.41
12p to 446p	Norway Kr	9.22
3p to 26p	Portugal Esc	58.00
4p to 35p	S Africa R	2.17
	Spain Pes	120.50
	Sweden Kr	7.47
	Switzerland Fr	4.41
	US \$	1.74
	Yugoslavia Dnr	34.50

1.15774 on Tuesday
 was 0.681024.

: Coffee prices
 : highs. Reuter's index
 : (previous 1621.7).

orts pages 20 and 21

Rates for small denomination bank notes
 only as quoted in the London Times by
 Bank International Ltd. Different rates
 apply to travellers' cheques and other
 foreign currency business.

18. Company Meeting Reports :
- Hardy's & Hansons 2
- 19 Thermal Syndicate 1
- 20 Preliminary Announcement : 1
- Aaronsen Brothers : 1
- 21 Interim Statement :

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ELECTION OF ONE SPECIAL MEMBER AND FOUR REGIONAL MEMBERS TO THE MILK MARKETING BOARD—1977

The Milk Marketing Board hereby announces as follows:

- The Board have determined the retirement date for 1977 as midnight on Thursday, 14 July 1977.
- One Special Member of the Board and one Regional Member for each of North-Western, South Wales, Southern and Mid-Western regions have to be elected.
- The Board are prepared to receive nominations of candidates for these elections. Such nominations must be received by the Board at the Board's offices at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 April 1977.
- Every person so nominated as a candidate for election as a Special or Regional Member of the Board must deposit with the Secretary of the Board not later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 April 1977 the sum of £2,000 in legal tender.
- No person will be qualified to be elected as a Special or Regional Member of the Board unless he or she has been nominated as a candidate for election as a Special Member and as a Regional Member at the same time.
- A candidate may withdraw from his or her candidature by written notice to that effect provided it is delivered at the offices of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 p.m. on Friday, 15 April 1977.
- Any election literature issued by or behalf of a candidate should bear the name and address of the person issuing it and the name of the candidate on whose behalf it is issued.

NOTE: Candidates in the Special Member election of which notice is given on this page may be interested to know that the Board have agreed to offer each properly nominated candidate (if more than one) the opportunity for a 1,000 word election address, prepared by the candidate and reproduced by the Board to be distributed with the voting papers to all producers at a cost to each candidate of £500. Candidates who wish to avail themselves of this service must submit a copy to the Secretary of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than the end of £200 are received by him not later than 18 April 1977. If advance notice of an intention to make use of this service can be given it will be advantageously met.

The Board will, on request, continue to provide candidates for any of the elections of which notice is given on this page with copies of the notices appointing the Board's Register of Producers, or any part thereof, at a fee of 25.00 per 1,000 copies supplied.

On other pages

Business appointments	20	Letters	18
Appointments vacant	24	Diary	19
Financial Editor	19	Share prices	22
Financial news	20	Wall Street	21
Market reports	20, 21	Bank Base Rates Table	21

Company Meeting Reports:

Hardy & Hansons	20
Thermal Syndicate	17
Preliminary Announcement:	
Amerson Brothers	19
Interim Statement:	
John Haggas	21

Six withhold data on low African pay inquiry

By Patricia Tisdall
Six British companies who for various reasons have declined to publish information about the wages and conditions of their African employees were named yesterday by the Department of Trade.

The companies are among 320 with affiliates in South Africa which were asked to give details of their employees' wages and conditions of work. The companies which have declined to publish the information are: 18 have published some but not all of the information required, the position of 41 has still to be clarified, while 95 employ fewer than 20 Africans.

Three of the six companies which are listed as having declined to publish the information have supplied it to the Department of Trade in confidence. These are Barton and Sons, tubing manufacturers and engineers, with two subsidiaries at Boksburg, in South Africa; Exchem Holdings, makers of explosives and chemicals, and Crown House, which in 1969 acquired an electrical engineer-

ing and contracting operation known as Wheeler Martin Pty. Mr Patrick Edge-Partington, chairman of Crown House, said last night that the company had given the Department of Trade permission to publish the information but "we rather object to being listed on by the Government" to publish it ourselves since the details relate to only one class of employee. Two of the six companies, C. J. Clark, makers of Clark's shoes, and Thomas French and Sons, which manufacture Rufflette curtain and furnishing accessories, have told the Department that they are prepared to make some information available conditionally.

One, Hickson and Welch (Holdings), has evidently supplied no information at all. This company, a chemicals and timber products group based in Castleford, Yorkshire, would make no comment.

The company has two listed subsidiaries in South Africa, Hickson's Chemical Co. at Roodepoort, manufacturing inorganic chemicals, and Hickson's Timber Preservation, a timber products maker. African interests last year accounted for nearly 7 per cent of Hickson and Welch's total turnover.

In guidelines laid down in a White Paper published in 1974, companies with South African subsidiaries are asked to state the number of Africans in the lowest paid grades they employ, including wages in total and hours worked per month.

They are also asked to show the proximity of the wage rates to local poverty and starvation levels, and the timeliness for improving them.

The companies are also expected to describe the opportunities for advancement for Africans; development for collective bargaining and how wages are determined.

UK ship orders shrink by 1m tons after highest output for 22 years

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent
British shipbuilding order books shrank by more than one million tons in the final three months of 1976, while the industry's output rose to its highest levels for more than 20 years.

The United Kingdom and Japan suffered the largest order-book reductions among the main shipbuilding nations in the final quarter. Britain's decline was influenced by the cancellation of tanker orders, placed originally by Maritime Fruit Carriers, according to year-end returns published last night by Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

The industry's order book stands at 2,945,000 tons gross, the seventh largest total in the world, but sufficient to provide employment for only about two years.

But within the overall total, there are a number of yards in the industry which desperately need fresh work in the next few months if redundancies are to be averted.

Latest returns underline the deepening crisis in world shipbuilding. The world order book of 55.3 million tons is at its lowest for eight years and the eleventh successive reduction since the record level of 133.4 million tons was reached in March, 1974.

More significantly, 90 per cent of the present ships on order are due to be delivered before the end of next year.

During 1976 shipyards picked up a total of 13 million tons gross of new orders. This is the level expected between now and 1980 which has led to discussions between European and Japanese shipbuilders on measures to cope with the serious overcapacity.

Ironically, United Kingdom production surged forward from historic levels last year, rising to 1,347 million tons launched—the highest since 1955.

Japan's shipyards, which suffered a cut of more than two million tons in the total order book in the final three months of last year, hold orders for 18.2 million tons gross—six times the United Kingdom industry's backlog.

VW importers persist in move to Milton Keynes

By Edward Townsend
Volkswagen (GB) yesterday announced plans to proceed with a £7.5m investment at Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire despite government pressure to go to a development area and although the company has yet to be granted an office development permit.

The company intends to build a centralized parts warehouse and headquarters complex on a 23-acre site at the new town employing 500 people. It is the largest project to be undertaken by the British company.

Volkswagen executives met Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment last week, to discuss the project and a spokesman for the company said it was confident the Government recognized the factors which led to Volkswagen's insistence on Milton Keynes.

A decision on the development permit is expected next week, and the company expects no difficulty in obtaining local authority planning permission.

The Government has pressed the company to consider Run-corn and the London docks for sites, with the prospect of a central site for its public funds; but neither area met the company's need for a place in the centre of the country close to motorways.

Volkswagen also stressed that it needed a central site for its attempt to persuade a large number of employees from its five scattered regional warehouses to move to the new headquarters.

Westinghouse nuclear pact with Italians soon

From John Earle
Rome, Feb. 15
Negotiations are nearing conclusion for Westinghouse to reduce its 51 per cent controlling share in two Italian companies in the nuclear power field, Sopren and Coren. The Italian minority partners in each case are Fiat and Breda Termomeccanica, which is part of the state-owned Finmeccanica group.

Sopren, which has the Westinghouse licence for pressurized water reactors, will be responsible for the provision of two plants for Enel, the electricity board, in the Molise region, but its programme is blocked by regional government opposition on environmental grounds.

Engineering staff merger

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
The Engineering Staff Association of the Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company of Chippendale, Wiltshire, is to merge with the Electrical Power Engineers Association. The amalgamation takes effect from April 1.

In a 77 per cent poll, its members voted 131 to four to transfer the association's engagements to the EPEA, which is now recruiting professional engineers in the private sector of industry following the loss of "sphere of influence" talks with its rival, the Technical and Supervisory Staff Section of the AUEW.

Coren is a small company which provides fuel for the existing Turbino Vercellese nuclear power plant. When the negotiations are concluded, it is expected that Westinghouse's shareholding will be taken over by ENI, which, under the Government's energy policy, has responsibility in the state sector for nuclear fuel.

According to a Fiat spokesman, Westinghouse is ready to cede control of these companies.

Mr Warner argued that if the Commission or the court fined a company, it actually quantified the fine on the basis of prevailing currency rates in member states where the fines must be executed by local court authorities.

The amounts are only expressed in the unit of account, as this is the rule under the Rome Treaty, he said.

"I can see nothing to preclude the Commission, if it thinks fit, from accepting payment in any other currency," Mr Warner told the judges.

Advocate General's opinion on the case brought before the court in connection with nine sugar companies in the Community which had been fined a total of 1.59 million units of account on December 16 for violating anti-trust rules.

Six West German, French, Dutch and Belgian companies chose to pay their fines in lire rather than their stronger national currencies.

Lloyds Bank Group now in Dubai.

Lloyds Bank International are pleased to announce the opening of their branch in Dubai.

The new branch provides a full range of banking services and is responsible for the development of all aspects of the international business of the Lloyds Bank Group in the United Arab Emirates. In conjunction with our branch already established in Bahrain, this enables Lloyds Bank International to play an active role in the financial growth of this important region.

LBI has recently arranged a £202.4 million medium-term sterling export credit to finance U.K. capital goods and services for the construction of an aluminium smelter complex at Jebel Ali, Dubai.

The Lloyds Bank Group already has branches and offices throughout Western Europe and Latin America in addition to a strong presence in the Pacific Basin and the United States.

Manager: M.K. Atkinson,
P.O. Box 3760, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates. Telephone 24151.

LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL
40/66 Queen Victoria St., London EC4P 4EL. Tel: 01-248 9822
A member of the Lloyds Bank Group

Fellow subsidiaries of the Lloyds Bank Group:
Lloyds Bank California, The National Bank of New Zealand.

LBI, the Bank of London & South America and their subsidiaries have offices in: Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Guatemala, Guernsey, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Jersey, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Uruguay, Venezuela.

Leyland crisis threat to investment plans

By R. W. Shakespeare
With more than 21,000 workers idle in its vehicle plants, British Leyland appears to be facing a steady worsening of its most serious crisis for many months, involving perhaps the costliest production losses since the company went to the Government for financial help.

Indeed, with 11 of its 18 car ranges out of production and fresh problems starting to take their toll in the normally profitable truck section, Leyland could be forced to reconsider some big investment and reorganization plans.

The Castle Bromwich body pressing complex in the Midlands is the worst trouble spot with 1,300 workers on strike and a further 3,000 laid off. All production is halted.

Shortage of car body shells and other pressed components from Castle Bromwich is having a disastrous effect on assembly centres. Jaguar production at Coventry is stopped with nearly 2,000 workers laid off.

A further 2,700 men have been sent home from the Mini assembly plant at Longbridge. Rover 3500 production at Solihull is halted, and at Cowley, Oxford, which is hit by the Castle Bromwich dispute and an internal strike by maintenance engineers, Mini, Princess and Marina production is at a standstill with 3,500 workers laid off.

Cowley also has a continuing problem in its central spares department, where 60 men are on strike and a further 650 are laid off.

EEC criticizes companies for paying fines in lire

Luxembourg, Feb. 15—Nine European companies convicted of breaking EEC rules on free competition in 1972, should not have paid their fines in Italian lire to take advantage of exchange rate changes, Mr Jean-Pierre Warner, the European Court of Justice's Advocate General, said here today.

He told the court he supported the EEC Commission's view that the fines should have been paid in the national currencies of the companies concerned.

Mr Warner argued that if the Commission or the court fined a company, it actually quantified the fine on the basis of prevailing currency rates in member states where the fines must be executed by local court authorities.

The amounts are only expressed in the unit of account, as this is the rule under the Rome Treaty, he said.

"I can see nothing to preclude the Commission, if it thinks fit, from accepting payment in any other currency," Mr Warner told the judges.

Advocate General's opinion on the case brought before the court in connection with nine sugar companies in the Community which had been fined a total of 1.59 million units of account on December 16 for violating anti-trust rules.

In brief

Courtaulds' Far East export drive

A textile export offensive to Far Eastern markets has been launched by Courtaulds, the large fibres-to-textiles group. Courtaulds has established a new Far Eastern subsidiary to take advantage of a substantial and growing export business in fibres and yarns to markets in the area including South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Over the last three years, the group's exports to the area have risen by 25 per cent, worth "many millions of pounds", against a rise in the group's overall exports of 40 per cent.

ICL's new system

A new system announced yesterday by International Computers is expected to win orders worth over £100m by 1980, mostly from abroad. It is an improved version of the System Ten machine developed by Singer, and costs £18,500.

Mr Peter Ellis, ICL marketing director, said the company had taken System Ten orders worth £7.5m in three months.

Swedish manufacturers

Jobs for about 200 workers on Merseyside are to be provided by a subsidiary of a Swedish clothing company which is taking over one of the Government's advance factories at St. Helens. Janstorp International UK, a subsidiary of Janstorp International AB, of Svenljunga, Sweden, is to manufacture ladies' jeans and blouses for export.

Iranian Management and Engineering Group, an associate company of the London-based Iranian Forestry Management and Engineering Group, has secured a contract worth nearly £6m for surveying, training and commissioning services on a Nigerian oil products distribution pipeline project. The main contractors for the project, worth £70m, are Russian.

£6m Nigerian contract

Iranian Management and Engineering Group, an associate company of the London-based Iranian Forestry Management and Engineering Group, has secured a contract worth nearly £6m for surveying, training and commissioning services on a Nigerian oil products distribution pipeline project. The main contractors for the project, worth £70m, are Russian.

Dearer Soviet timber
Price increases averaging 10 per cent have been agreed by Exporters' Council for Forest Sales organization, on its first 1977 offer of softwood for the United Kingdom timber market. Prices of the five grades of timber will be between £69 and £113 per cu. m, comparable with recent offers made to Holland and West Germany.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bullock report needs cool and calm consideration

From the Bishop of Worcester
Sir, The Industrial Committee, of which I am chairman, has given some consideration to the contents of the Bullock report, the reactions to it from unions and management and other views expressed in the press. In the light of this discussion, I would like to make the following points:

1. It is consistent with the Christian vision that society should develop in such a way that each person can exercise his God-given ability to make choices, to take responsibility and to share in shaping his environment. We believe that employees have a stake in their companies which is at least as significant as that of the shareholders and that this should be recognized both by law and by the urgent extension of opportunities for them to share in decision-making at all levels including the highest.

2. There is a real danger that, in the heat of debate about methods, the importance of reaching agreement on the fundamental principle of genuinely shared decision-making will be forgotten. We would hope that the end itself will not be lost in the welter of disagreement about the means.

3. The 100 largest manufacturing enterprises, we read in the report, produced 40 per cent of the total net output in 1971, compared with only 25 per cent in 1953. This growing concentration of power in the hands of so few emphasizes for us the importance of sharing it properly. The tendency of power to corrupt is fully acknowledged in the Christian doctrine of man. Power in the hands of one group needs to be properly balanced by equivalent power in the hands of others if we are to approach justice and equity.

4. We read also, that around 70 per cent of employees in enterprises affected by the Bullock proposals are, in fact, members of unions. It is our hope that it will be widely and willingly recognized that the obvious bodies to take greater responsibility in balancing the increasingly centralised power of the larger employers are the trade unions and that this should be enabled through appropriate legislation.

5. Law, however, that is not tolerable to the majority of those affected is bad law, as the history of the 1971 Industrial Relations Act amply showed. We believe that legislation based on the Bullock report should not be introduced when it is known that there is such opposition from both sides as to make the proposals unwelcome.

able and to prevent the decision-making. Further consideration is ranging experience participation is for in a cool atmosphere, before legislation can be Yours faithfully, ROBIN WORCESTER, Chairman, Industrial Committee, General Synod of the Church of England, Social Responsibility.

Behind the times
From the Direct the Confederation Industry
Sir, Mr Clive J. Barker, director of two years, so I tells us. He is times. There hawks on boards for Mr Jenkins expect in two years is th of boards by uni We must hope his are dashed. If it will be the death democracy. Yours faithfully, JOHN MEIVEN, London SW1H 9L

The right structure for participation

From Dr C. J. Morrison
Sir, There is a concern that some of the recent proposals for more industrial democracy will lead to increased industrial conflict. So far we have had a debate on worker directors. We must instead consider the structure within which constructive participation can take place.

Status and competence of safety officers

From Mrs M. Hamilton
Sir, The use of the title "safety officer" instead of "safety representative" as a Derek Harris's news item of February 2 is inaccurate and could cause a great deal of confusion among people not conversant with the safety representatives and safety committees regulations which will come into force on October 1, 1978.

Deferred tax Problems of comparison

There is no possible alternative being a replacement of the safety no possibility of being confused or Yours sincerely, MARGARET HAM, Secretary, Health and Safety, Heywood Farm Ho White Waltham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3LT, February 9.

Safety officers are qualified full-time safety professionals, and usually members of the Institution of Industrial Safety Officers. The safety representatives that the trade unions will be empowered to appoint under the new regulations will not be safety specialists, but employees who undertake to spend a portion of their working time in checking the adequacy of the arrangements for ensuring the health and safety of particular work areas or groups of workers whom they are chosen to represent.

These safety representatives will have no executive responsibility and no legal liability. They will be expected to have, or to acquire, the expertise of the safety officer. They will be instructed, by their employers and their trade unions, in sufficient basic safety knowledge to be of service to workers in their particular group of workers.

Embassy to export
From Mr D. R. May
Sir, May I also add praise of British export to exporters? (Leary 7). Sofia, several days' negotiation, abundantly clear we sent the 60-page if negotiations we included. The embas at once to a re even though the staff were fully oc wife of the assistant secretary appears with English type solved our problem. If nothing else, it experts my sincere embassy for its fullness. Yours faithfully, D. R. COLEMAN, 10 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, February 8.

These proposals would go a long way to breaking down the us versus them, win and lose attitudes prevailing at the moment. People working together in a business will always have differences. However, let us have an accounting structure that is congruent with participation at all levels. Then we can meaningfully talk how best we can work together for mutual benefit.

The safety officer, on the other hand, is management's adviser on the safety policy of the company, the appropriate legislation, and the total organization for ensuring the health and safety of the whole workforce.

Business Diary:
Sir, I have just read in the Financial Times that the British Exporters' Council has been set up. I am sure that this is a very welcome development. I am sure that the British Exporters' Council will be able to do a great deal to help British exporters. I am sure that the British Exporters' Council will be able to do a great deal to help British exporters.

Air fares to Australia

From Mrs J. Williams
Sir, Mr Virgo (Letter, Business News, February 9) need have no fear that our airlines are trying to attract business through cheap fares if the conditions of the recently announced APEN fare to Australia are anything to go by.

With great "heating of drums" they suggest that this will allow many families to be reunited for as little as £450 return to Sydney, minimum stay 21 days.

For those who want to go to Sydney for 21 days (or for that matter up to 61 days) British Airways and Qantas allow just seven days every year (November 1-31) to make the trip for that price, and then on limited number of seats.

A man, wife and two children (three full nights) might expect to pay £1,350, but because of the clever arrangements and scheduling of off-peak/high-peak dates (e.g. off-peak from United Kingdom March, April, May; from Australia, February off-peak from United Kingdom November; off-peak from Australia, October, November) and you pay at the rate in force on day of departure from United Kingdom and from Australia it is probable that the cost will be at least £1,620 even if you fly out from United Kingdom during off-peak.

Come on BA/Qantas, come down from those clouds and give us a real deal.

When making such deposits a receipt should be obtained from the shop or garage attendant and, if possible, a note made of his or her Barclaycard number. Deposits may be recovered later when either cash is tendered or the cheque has been cleared.

The only problem I have encountered with this hitherto infallible system is remembering where I have left my various possessions. I will refrain from listing the items of clothing I am still trying to relocate for fear of embarrassing the vicar and your other readers.

I often find myself visiting a garage or shop, particularly when I have failed to bring my Barclaycard.

However, I have never failed to achieve my objective or to secure my purchases by tendering material possessions by way of security and those range from my watch, signet ring and/or various articles of clothing depending upon the value of the purchases I am making.

Difference in beer prices

From Mr J. M. Milner
Sir, Methinks that those who protest the loudest may have the most to hide—I paid 36p for a pint of unknown origin in one pub and 28p for a named brew in my local. Why the difference?

From Mr Gerald I. Ratin

Sir, I fall completely to understand the fears expressed by the Rev R. J. Kingsbury in his letter today about the risks involved in obtaining a Barclaycard.

From Dr V. Powell-Simpson

Sir, The simple answer to Kingsbury's query 10) is for him to bank. Other than a general without any strings a more practical problem fact that the £30 guarantee is virtually useless if and age!

charge if he uses buy goods or services the total amount presented monthly. The only risk of debt because of a c is his own lack of Does he not possess to resist the tempta Yours faithfully, GERALD I. RATIN, 158 Court Lane, Dulwich, SE21 7EB, February 10.

From Miss Sally Weir
Sir, There is a sin in the Financial Times (Business News, Feb. 9) and one which more bank customers should change your bank! I time requesting a cheque, without credit facility on your Yours faithfully, SALLY WEIR, 64 Speed House, Bexley, Kent, SE18 6JN, London, EC2, February 10.

From Mr F. H. Smith
Sir, With reference Kingsbury's difficult his cheque book safe card, surely a man of sufficient wit will withstand the temptation using the card as facility? Alternatively the difference between self-discipline of use within one's current and a Barclaycard same limitation. Ta Yours faithfully, F. H. SMITH, 6 Egley Drive, Mayford, Woking, February 10.

From Dr V. Powell-Simpson
Sir, The simple answer to Kingsbury's query 10) is for him to bank. Other than a general without any strings a more practical problem fact that the £30 guarantee is virtually useless if and age!

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Good buying at the lower levels

Equities and gilts made a swift recovery from Monday's big losses with the FT index closing 9.8 better at 376.1 and gains of £1 for Government stocks.

While market men were expecting some sort of rally they were surprised at its strength and an early morning rally would have found most settling for two or three points on the index.

In the event, the predictable "bear" closing was accompanied by a fair degree of buying at the lower levels, a feature which first showed up late on the previous evening. But the interest dwindled after lunch.

Doubts over the fertilizer business still hang heavily on Fisons which did not join in the general advance. A persistent seller switching from the shares left it another 2p off at 293p, down 17p in two days. Some think the caution is being overdone.

and the index closed just half a point lower than the 10.3 rise recorded at 1 pm, its best level of the day.

Additionally helped by a firmer performance from sterling, gilts were also in demand. At the short end, gains were between one-half and a full point while for "longs" the advance was in the narrower band of three-quarters to £1.

The result of some solid blue-chip buying in the morning session was a 12p gain to 430p for Glaxo, one of 8p to 398p for Beecham and of 51p to 331p for ICI.

There were also a good number of features to be found in the engineering sector, the most prominent being Herbert Morris, with a jump of 11p to 151p. The figures themselves were much in line with market expectations but the prospect of another bid from Babcock spurred the excitement.

Elsewhere, Tube Investments

felt the delayed reaction of weekend press comment with a rise of 12p to 352p, while other prominent stocks were Dary International, up 7p to 162p after contracts news, Dewey 7p to 106p, Metal Box 6p to 260p and Associated Engineering 5p to 33p.

In the electrical sector, Racal, still embroiled in the Milgo battle, led the way with a 10p jump to 266p with others to gain significant ground being GEC 7p to 183p, Rank 6p to 170p, and Decca "A" 5p to 22p.

Lucas Industries were also in good form with a 7p gain at 222p.

In the food sector, a mention here brought another flurry of interest in Lennons and the shares ended another penny to the good at 36p.

Bibby met some renewed speculative buying and went ahead 4p to 124p while United Biscuits rose 6p to 136p and Rowntree Macintosh 3p to 208p.

Though on the firm side of overnight levels, stock shares were restrained by the latest retail sales figures. United Drapery did better than most.

Speculative interest was directed into Wilkinson Match 6p to 139p and FMC 3p to 76p while companies involved in bid tussles were Johnson Group Clear-

ers, off a penny to 46p, Serck, better by 3p to 84p and Cattle's Holdings which gained 2p to 40p.

Oil and North Sea stocks joined in the general advance with BP at 914p and Tricentric at 138p both 10p higher. Shell gained 6p to 496p and others to go ahead were Associated News 11p to 159p and Carless Capel 3p to 35p.

Lloyds 15p to 200p, National Westminster 10p to 215p, Barclays 10p to 245p and Midland 7p to 252p all gained ground in the banking sector while the discounts houses made a strong recovery, the best being Cater Ryder 15p to 24p, Union 10p to 295p and Allen Harvey & Koss 10p to 390p.

The pick of properties was Bernard Sunley which jumped 11p to 126p on renewed bid talk.

Company statements were good for rises in Evode 3p to 30p, Aaronson 1p to 35p and Thermal Syndicate, which was given a mention here and which ended 5p higher at 90p. But

After the knock taken in 1975, profits of chemical group Albright & Wilson, due today, are expected to be up from £18.5m to £30m or even more. Market talk has it that the company plans an advertising campaign pinned on the figures and the shares closed 4p ahead at 90p.

OC Summers was lowered 3p to 26p by its loss.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

After the knock taken in 1975, profits of chemical group Albright & Wilson, due today, are expected to be up from £18.5m to £30m or even more. Market talk has it that the company plans an advertising campaign pinned on the figures and the shares closed 4p ahead at 90p.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Equity turnover on February 14 was £78.18m (16,328 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Barclays, Bunnell, National Westminster, BP, Unilever, Lucas, Grand Metropolitan, BAT, Decca, Commercial Union, Courtauld, EMI, Marks & Spencer, Thorn "A", IC Gas, Tricentric, Lloyds Bank, Racal, J. Bibby and Cattle's Holdings.

Tax vanishes from Aaronson's happy scene

It is a pleasure to find a group that makes a lot of money and no longer even has the bother of providing for tax, let alone paying it.

This rarity is Aaronson Bros in real estate and laminates. In the year to September 30 it boosted sales by more than 21 per cent to £11.6m and pre-tax profits by almost 30 per cent to £2.36m.

And to replace a tax charge of £715,000 there now appears a £80,000 credit, enabling attributable profits to appear as a satisfactory £2.22m against only £993,000.

Aaronson has decided that it no longer needs to set aside even tax deferred. The sum already provided is deemed adequate for any liabilities that are likely to arise in the foreseeable future. The credit arose from over provisions of earlier years.

No one knows when tax deferred may become tax payable, but so far stock relief granted by the Chancellor has enabled companies to keep shifting actual tax forward from year to year.

Aaronson has also spent more than £5m on expansion in two years. So it also has valuable capital resources to keep taxmen at bay.

Forgetting about tax is not the only thing that the £5m investment programme has helped the group to do.

The investment was designed to concentrate on one site the main board making interests and install labour saving plant. This has helped to explain why margins widened, and the investment may have helped the group with applications for price increases.

A "material" increase in profits this year is likely. The dividend rises from 1.6p net to 1.77, or 2.73p gross.

Work abroad aiding Bath & Portland

By Ray Mauchan

Bath & Portland Group is beginning to bring home the first fruits of its ambitious overseas-tendering campaign.

Very nearly half the profit gain from £2.09m to £2.5m pre-tax in the year to October 31 last can be attributed to the first time inclusion of profits from Nigeria, Iraq and the £60m road building contract in Iran.

Some 20 per cent of the Iranian contract has been completed on which progress payments, if three months in arrears, have been taken. The contract will be complete in two years.

Iran has presented its own peculiar problems, not least because the client refuses to accept the contractor's invoice, a financial charge when progress payments are in arrears.

In addition, Bath has had to spend £14m to equip itself for the job. Special truck sales, for example, had to be fitted out with the contractor's sheet overdrifts of £6.21m would be well on the way to elimination.

On the home front, only the animal feeds and fertilizers division failed to show growth. Sales volume collapsed 15 per cent, largely because British farmers still have not come to terms with post-oil-crisis prices and the outlook for 1976-77 is still not bright.

The building and civil engineering order book will carry forward for three quarters of the year which, unsurprisingly, is a smaller load than usual.

With the help of the three overseas contracts, profits from this division climbed from £1.05m to £2.53m.

The chairman is confident that growth rates this year will be within sight of last but, while the market was pleased with Bath's progress yesterday, prospects of continued non-United Kingdom growth may depend on the tendering success in new overseas markets.

Up 4p yesterday to 40p, the shares are trading at 3.5 times fully taxed earnings and the yield on a net total of 2.88p per share, is almost 9 per cent gross.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

The group covers adhesives, sealants, building chemicals and bitumen products as well as roof weatherproofing.

Long stay justifies Thermo bid defe

Thermal Syndicate profits for the year 31 leap 78 per cent on sales 29 per cent to £3.9m.

The profits incl technical know-how plant and £346,000. These c similar sales of £23 vious year and a further two or t run. It will be refi its this year and

Excluding these growth approached and accelerated rates.

The record, then, last year's against International offer of 85p. No forecast was gi tion of that bid bu dition was sharp.

Now the total t has been raised, i more than twice t which has well coe lished earnings of shares yesterday higher at 90p.

Thermal Syndicate cesses fused silica lighting, domestic chemical and scien tifics have prosp nitors have suffe of its wide spec products.

Sir John Paget, cl that the group had tempration to can which has been l areas and thus ha caught up when bad.

Margins have w result of past cap and £24m has c years. It will be m flow.

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Profits last year by a turnover from losses in Germany bution of £60,000

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n

Commodities reach n


Account Days: Dealings Began, Feb 14. Dealings End, Feb 25. Contango Day, Feb 28. Settlement Day, March 8

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

25

DRN, Secret. Nat. College,
War and Air. Months (Di-
st. Courses. Also line
and writing. School of
Course, Tennessee, The
Central, prospectus: Free
to L. Polner, S.W. 10.
189.



RETIRED/P.A.
END

Personal Secretary/PA. This
wide variety of duties and
salary negotiable.

Miss Loftus

5842

ANT DIRECTOR

finance team in the City.
preferably to "A" level
and typing and ability to
sum salary £3,000 p.a. plus
ered Merchant Bank.
ext. 284.

Christian Dior Ties and
 Assistant with initiative
 is right-hand in all aspects
 n, organisation and sales
 e heart of New Bond St.
 plus fringe benefits.
 on 629 4167.

Office of this packaging
we're seeking a really
to work with a senior
er with proven secretarial
work, numerate, and with
e'll offer you up to £3,500
Phone Philipa Cranwick
interview.

BILINGUAL SECRETARY
London subsidiary of West
German heavy engineering
company seeks Secretary 23
plus 15th German/English
short-hand and typing.
Interesting job in small
friendly Knightsbridge office.
£3,000 per annum plus
bonus, L.V.'s, 4 weeks holi-
days.
Write:
Company Secretary,
M.A.N.-GHH (G.E.) Ltd.,
Silver City House,
62 Brompton Road, S.W.3
or phone 01-584 3211

The Royal Warrant
Heldiers Association

requires a

PERSONAL SECRETARY:

The position is for a person of charm, poise, and tact, who will have personal access to the Chief Executive and the staff for responsibility. The duties of the position will be to represent the Association as a whole at a salary in excess of £50,000 per annum plus pension and other benefits.

Apply in confidence to The Secretary, The Royal Warrant Holders' Association, 67 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1E.

NOMURA EUROPE N.V.
LONDON WALL, E.C.2
Corporate, coal, experienced
SECRETARY
with plenty of initiative,
ready to work in fast-paced
investment bank for a senior
manager. 'A' level, educa-
tion, 23+. Competitive salary
according to age and experi-
ence.
Contact Miss Saunders,
606 6253

Don't apply unless you have a
British passport. You must be
able to get involved in all aspects of
our business and at least a few
days each week. Age 20-30, salary
£8,000 rapidly to £12,000. If
you are interested please send your
qualifications, experience to the
Director, in writing: The Mirror
Group Ltd., c/o Mr. J. H. Smith,
Director, Summerfield House,
67 Fulham Road, London,
S.W.10.

CENTACOM

Administrative Team and
colling to Johns Hopkins. Per-
sonnel are the prime require-
ments for this senior
technical position in Inter-
national Off. Cooperation Area
\$34,410 yearly base, plus
1.3% and other fringe bene-
fits.

For further details call:
CENTACOM STAFF
237 Kensington Street
836 2875

me
me
again

row

<p>SECRETARY ASSISTANT with skills of 50-55 would be required for Bank of England. Salary £2,000. If you are a woman, please send your resume to: Bank of England, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2</p>	<p>SECRETARY ASSISTANT with skills of 50-55 would be required for Bank of England. Salary £2,000. If you are a woman, please send your resume to: Bank of England, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2</p>	<p>VICED PRESIDENT OF AIRLINE COMPANY £3,400 + Very generous L.V.E. and travel allowances. Phone Barbara Pa'nlight 428 1581</p>	<p>ALFRED MARAS BUREAU 115 New Bond St., W.1.</p>
<p>SECRETARY ASSISTANT with skills of 50-55 would be required for Bank of England. Salary £2,000. If you are a woman, please send your resume to: Bank of England, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2</p>	<p>SECRETARY ASSISTANT with skills of 50-55 would be required for Bank of England. Salary £2,000. If you are a woman, please send your resume to: Bank of England, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2</p>	<p>ALFRED MARAS BUREAU 115 New Bond St., W.1.</p>	<p>ALFRED MARAS BUREAU 115 New Bond St., W.1.</p>

ARABIC TYPIST
required for London W.C.1 office of international post, radio, television, and news. Interesting and demanding post. Fluency in English and Arabic essential.
PHONE: 242 2248

PUBLISHING, W.1
£3,300 NEG.
T.A. or L.V.E. for top new office. Good working conditions. A most job, 40 hrs. of week.
SCOPE RECRUITMENT
650 2090 and 2091
153 Chancery Rd., W.V.3

ALFRED MARAS BUREAU
115 New Bond St., W.1.

ALFRED MARAS BUREAU
115 New Bond St., W.1.

